

*Oral Questions*

• (1140)

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** You are taking lessons from Tobin.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that my colleague does not have a long experience in this House, and I do not have a long one either.

However, one must recognize, Mr. Speaker, and I think my colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister, said it clearly earlier, that when an RCMP investigation is under way one should at least, be it the Minister of Finance, the Solicitor General, the Deputy Prime Minister, or whoever, let the RCMP complete that investigation. I believe that this is just reasonable and I am convinced that my colleague understand and agrees with that.

[*English*]

## CRIMINAL ACTION—STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. A few minutes ago in the House he said that the Minister of Finance had risen in the House on April 27 on a point of privilege and referred to a Budget leak.

On that very day the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and other Ministers referred on 18 different occasions to a criminal act in the singular. The Minister of Finance appearing on the Mike Duffy Show on Sunday, April 30, again referred in the singular to a criminal act.

I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister to respond very carefully to my question. Yesterday, in answer to a question put by myself to the Solicitor General, the Solicitor General said:

—I can repeat again that the RCMP Commissioner informed me that from the beginning, the investigation included the situation referred to yesterday in the news—

Here the Solicitor General says one thing, that from the beginning he knew of a second leak and yet the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister said many times in the House that there was one leak and one criminal act. I want the Deputy Prime Minister now to explain to the House which Minister is telling the truth to the House?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I already answered that question at the beginning of the Oral Question Period. It may be necessary to return to it and to elaborate on that. What I said yesterday and what my colleague also mentioned a while ago is that there have been all sorts of allegations since the 27th. We have asked—and I believe that the RCMP has done its job, it is doing it right now—for an investigation on all allegations, including an allegation by a Member of this House, to the effect that information had been released before. I believe it is the duty of the RCMP to investigate on that.

What I said yesterday, and I want to repeat to my honourable colleague, what I was referring to, and this seems very obvious to me, is that the possibility—Because I think that the meaning of the television program, the news that appeared before yesterday, was that some people could have profited from the premature release of the Budget document. Well, it is exactly on that aspect that we have asked, from the very beginning, for a particular investigation on the possibility that some people may have profited from the release of the document, and the RCMP Commissioner, Mr. Speaker, told us yesterday that there has been no evidence of profiteering. That seems very obvious to me.

[*English*]

## MINISTER OF FINANCE—PRIVILEGE—SECOND LEAK

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I will put my question in a different way for the Deputy Prime Minister. In the absence of the Prime Minister, would he please respond to the question.

The president of the company in Toronto said he phoned the Deputy Minister of Finance, Fred Gorbet, on April 27, which is the day the Budget was to be brought down in the House. I want to know precisely when the Minister of Finance was informed of the second leak. I ask that because when the Government heard about the first leak, when it got caught with the first leak, the Minister rose on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** What nonsense.