

more had been leaked out and to whom is unknown. However, at that time the Minister of Finance knew that there had been a leak. He did not know how extensive that leak was, but at that time he should have done the honourable thing and come into the Chamber of the House of Commons and offered his resignation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: That did not occur. The Deputy Prime Minister ran in, the Minister of Justice ran in. They huddled and decided that, perhaps to buy some time, the hours of the House should be extended. These discussions always take place with the House Leaders, and there were no discussions. Out of the blue, just before six o'clock, the Minister of Justice rose and asked to extend the hours. Again, this is a clear indication that they were well aware that a Budget leak had occurred at that time.

It would have been at that time that the Minister of Finance should have done the honourable thing, offered his resignation, and while the House was sitting, indicated that there would not be a Budget, that the Budget process would be put off for a number of weeks, and that a proper Budget would be brought in at a proper time by a proper Minister of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: It is incomprehensible for the Deputy Prime Minister to suggest that sometime during the evening, after the information had been leaked, after the news media had presented the details of the Budget, members of the Opposition could be expected to co-operate in some kind of a rescue operation, or some kind of a cover-up operation, to give the illusion that this was an appropriate process, by agreeing to recall the House of Commons so that the Minister of Finance could stand up at that point, after it was public information, and indicate the details of the Budget. It was irresponsible of the Minister to even ask members of the Opposition to co-operate in that manner.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will know that it is one o'clock, and ordinarily we would adjourn until 2 p.m. The Chair is, of course, in the hands of the Members.

Some Hon. Members: Call it one o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

S. O. 31

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

THE BUDGET

LEAK OF DOCUMENT—REPORTS IN NEWSPAPERS

Ms. Sheila Coppins (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I sat in my seat this morning and watched the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) smirk as points of order and questions of privilege were raised relating to the very serious matter of this major Budget leak. I look at *The Ottawa Citizen* of today which suggests that at least 20 people have known about the Budget contents for several days. I look at the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, in which the chairman of Air Canada, at a meeting that took place yesterday and finished at 12.30 is broadly hinting to shareholders that there will be a sell-out announced in the Budget today.

When the Government of Canada and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) do not have the integrity to resign on an issue of such fundamental importance, how many people sold off their shares, how many people made money? How many people speculated on submarines as a result of this major leak which was caused by the negligence of this Government and by a Prime Minister and a Minister who take Budget secrecy and treat it as a joke. Why did the Prime Minister not stand up in the House this morning and speak to the issue? He hung his Minister out to dry because he knows the Minister was negligent. He knows that the information was flying fast and furious around—

An Hon. Member: He should resign.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

* * *

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, the measures announced in the 1989 Budget are aimed at reinforcing the efforts made in our first term to control and substantially reduce the national debt.