

Oral Questions

I know the Hon. Member will appreciate this. I ask him to put his question succinctly. I am sure that would be properly received by the House.

Mr. Boudria: Does the Prime Minister agree with his Minister of Public Works who says that taxpayers have been getting value for their money in this deal? Or is it not the fact that Tory organizers have been getting money for their value in this deal?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the answer to the question might be given to the Hon. Member if he asked the residents of Mirabel how they have fared under this administration compared to the previous one.

RCMP—REPORTED SEARCH OF MEMBER'S OFFICE ON
PARLIAMENT HILL

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday the RCMP, with a search warrant, conducted a search of a Member's office on Parliament Hill. Will the Prime Minister confirm that this indeed took place and that it was part of the investigation into the corruption in the way in which the lands resale had taken place?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have said repeatedly, and I think Hon. Members would agree with me, that the Opposition has not only a right to inquire about things but a duty. However, the preamble to a question is not the place to lay a charge. If the Hon. Member, who is a very experienced Member, wishes to ask a question, he should put the question.

Mr. Prud'homme: Does he need your permission to do that?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member asked whether it was necessary to have my permission. The answer is an unequivocal no!

[*English*]

However, there are certain rules by which we are bound and I would ask Hon. Members to keep them in mind when they are putting their questions.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I have considerable experience, as you will appreciate, in receiving questions of that type. I consider it a perfectly proper question, if I may say so.

Some Hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Kaplan: I have not been ruled out of order. I ask the Prime Minister or another responsible Minister to confirm the fact which I have learned this morning that the RCMP, with a search warrant, has conducted a search of a Member's office. Is this part of the matters relating to Mirabel about which the official Opposition has been asking questions for a number of days?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have had considerable experience with regard to these matters as well. I find the question repulsive and against the interests of natural justice in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, come on.

Mr. Penner: Smarten up.

Ms. Copps: In other words, the answer is yes.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The general allegation which has been made, without specificity, casts reflection, not only on the Speaker but on the whole House. I find this kind of tactic by the Liberal Party unbelievable.

Mr. Gauthier: Stonewall.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I do not understand why they would persist in this kind of sleazy tactic.

• (1210)

I am not aware of the circumstances. I do not comment on investigations. I do not think it is appropriate to comment on investigations because, if an investigation is going on, we want to make sure that it is successful. It hardly has anything to do with making some general allegation that I think is basically false and unfair.

SALE OF LAND AT MIRABEL

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, for a number of days the Official Opposition has been bringing forward facts in relation to the resale of Mirabel land.

Mr. Crosbie: What facts?

Mr. Kaplan: We know that there are police investigations under way. That has been confirmed. The RCMP confirmed this morning that a search warrant was executed on Parliament Hill yesterday.

My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Is he content to leave the resolution of the standards of sale of land at Mirabel to the police? Is that where the morality of the Ministers and Members of the Government caucus will be resolved, or will he take some responsibility for their conduct at a higher level than the violation of the criminal law?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I simply do not accept the premise of the Hon. Member's question. It is false. It is a false question, a false premise.

The fact is that I simply think it is untenable for the justice critic of the Official Opposition to try to stand up in the first place and make suggestions that the Opposition has been bringing forward facts in respect of this matter of land transactions at Mirabel.