

*Oral Questions*

give them further information about leaks and allegations, to keep them in the dark—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Kaplan:**—so they could benefit from being able to deny that they had information? Now that he is back, does the Prime Minister believe on reflection that that is an acceptable direction for Ministers to give to their officials: Keep us in the dark?

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

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the question contains suggestions which bring discredit upon the Hon. Member as a former Solicitor General—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:**—and is deeply offensive to senior members of the Public Service of Canada even to imply that they would ever accept such a suggestion from anybody. The Hon. Member should rise right now from his seat and apologize to the Clerk of the Privy Council, the Deputy Minister of Finance, and all the public servants of Canada who deserve better from the Hon. Member.

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

## FURTHER DIRECTION TO OFFICIALS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, if it was not the Prime Minister's direction or his other Ministers' direction to officials not to give them further information, why did they not give them further information?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have already said that the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Tellier, informed me, as he properly should have—

**Mr. Tobin:** Two hours later.

**Mr. Mulroney:**—when the information was brought to his attention. When the information had come to the attention of the Deputy Minister of Finance on a telephone call, the day after the Budget—

**An Hon. Member:** That took two hours!

**Mr. Mulroney:** If the Member is interested in the response, I will try to give it to him.

When the call came to Mr. Gorbet, the Deputy Minister of Finance, he acted—

**An Hon. Member:** What time?

**Mr. Mulroney:**—in an appropriate and timely way.

**An Hon. Member:** How?

**Mr. Mulroney:** He verified the information. He consulted immediately with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He passed on the information to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who were already investigating—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:**—this matter pursuant to a request the evening before. The inquiry was ongoing. This information was imparted by public servants to the Royal—

**An Hon. Member:** That took two hours!

**Mr. Mulroney:**—Canadian Mounted Police. The Clerk of the Council informed me in a timely and complete way, as he did the Deputy Prime Minister when he was advised—

**An Hon. Member:** And the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Mulroney:**—when Mr. Tellier was advised.

**An Hon. Member:** A two-hour gap.

**Mr. Mulroney:** This information comes directly from the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Paul Tellier, and Mr. Fred Gorbet. They have made the proper explanations which I convey to the House. I know my hon. friend will believe those explanations because they come from distinguished and non-political public servants.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

[Translation]

## BUDGET LEAKS—REQUEST AS TO WHO WAS FIRST TO BE INFORMED

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Prime Minister. He just informed the House that he, as Prime Minister, was not informed of Mr. Masterman's telephone call until 3.30 p.m. Perhaps the Prime Minister could answer the following question: Which Minister was the first to be informed about Mr. Masterman's call? When was that Minister informed? Was he informed before, during or after Question Period?