

Oral Questions

I say as a parliamentary leader of a Party in this House, joining with all other Members of this House—

An Hon. Member: You're a bunch of socialists.

Mr. Broadbent: If the central European—what profound ignorance has just been uttered from the other side of the House. I leave that to him. I say to him that it was Social Democrats who were put down in Czechoslovakia who fought for freedom like we are calling for here. I call upon the leadership, both in Poland and in Czechoslovakia, and particularly in the Soviet Union, to live up to the commitments to freedom and allow freedom to flourish both in Czechoslovakia and in Poland.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: You are so ignorant, you're despicable. Where was your Party on the War Measures Act, on the Japanese-Canadians? Tell me.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I'll tell you who stands up for freedom in this place, it's not you guys.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, boloney.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

PATRONAGE ALLEGATIONS—RCMP INVESTIGATION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and it concerns the Prime Minister's apparent double standard of political morality shown over the weekend. The Member of Parliament for Rosemont is kicked out of the Tory Caucus for what the Prime Minister called irresponsible and unacceptable behaviour. She is on the side of—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. The Hon. Member may be rising on a matter of considerable political interest, and there certainly may be other places to pursue it, but I am having some difficulty here because, as Hon. Members know, a question directed to the administration has to deal with the administration of government. So far the Hon. Member is not persuading me that that question does involve the administration of government. Perhaps the Hon. Member can help the Chair.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that I believe the question I will ask does comply with the rules of the House, but in the preamble I wanted to raise circumstances which have been much in the news over the weekend and which

reflect on the political morality of this Government as a Government.

I contrast the treatment of the Member for Rosemont with the Member of Parliament for Gamelin who faces 50 charges of influence peddling, and yet he remains in caucus.

Mr. Speaker: I have asked the Hon. Member, who is an experienced Member, to assist the Chair and stay within the bounds. I do not want to interrupt a lead question, and I do so with great hesitancy. However, I do ask the Hon. Member's co-operation.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I wanted also to contrast that with the Member for York—Peel who, after having 14 violations—

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty the Chair is in is that the rules by which we are bound are designed ultimately and primarily so that questions do not create disorder and, second, that they be pertinent to the administration of the Government. The Hon. Member, I know, understands this, and I would ask him to put his question. Otherwise, I may have to move on to another Member.

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's condemnation of the MP for Rosemont is based on an RCMP press release which I have here which says simply that she had no evidence to justify initiating a criminal investigation. Whether she had anything new to add on that day, August 19, we all know she has evidence of alleged kick-backs because she is a key witness for the prosecution against the MP for Gamelin.

• (1420)

Mr. Gormley: Kangaroo court!

Mr. Speaker: I will exercise considerable patience and allow the Hon. Member to put his question, but the preambles are going too far.

Mr. Kaplan: Then to come right to the question—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kaplan: —the Deputy Prime Minister accused the Hon. Member for Rosemont of irresponsible and unacceptable behaviour. Will he acknowledge what RCMP Constable Trevor Edwards is quoted as saying, namely, that there is an ongoing investigation? As well, why is the Prime Minister trying to undermine the credibility of the Hon. Member for Rosemont who will shortly be a witness in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is taking the lead question for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and, as I said, I do not like interrupting, but we are now treading into another even more difficult situation because there is an ongoing criminal investigation. I do not know where all this is leading but I have an obligation to ensure that the questions are within the rules. If the Hon. Member can put his question—