

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is perfectly clear to me that that question is out of order, as I am sure it is to the Hon. Member, because it attempts to make a charge without making a charge. Therefore, I remind Hon. Members that the questions have to be put to Ministers about matters which are under their current ministerial responsibilities. Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. There is no need for a charge because there is an admission by the Deputy Prime Minister of improper conduct.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will give the Hon. Member one more chance, please, for a supplementary question only.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): It is not a matter of chance.

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Since the Deputy Prime Minister has admitted this improper behaviour of systematically eavesdropping on MPs—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Dingwall: —will he not do the honourable thing and seek the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond will resume his seat.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): No wonder John Turner is absent.

An Hon. Member: No wonder John Crosbie is absent.

Ms. Copps: Talk about integrity!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt.

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It deals with this very serious matter which has been revealed today. In light of the fact that the Deputy Prime Minister has suggested that he overheard what was going on in the Liberal caucus room as a result of an accidental crossing of wires, and in view of the fact that the Deputy Prime Minister said in the interview: "There was a method by which we knew every Wednesday what was said in the Liberal caucus, word for bloody word. I had nothing to do with it, but I had access to it", it clearly implicates the Deputy Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question, please?

Mr. Rodriguez: Will the Prime Minister do the honourable thing that is consistent with the traditions of Parliament and have the Deputy Prime Minister step down and order an investigation into all matters surrounding the bugging?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there have been allegations that there was bugging of MPs by the Deputy Prime Minister. There is a suggestion that there was an admission by the Deputy Prime Minister. Neither is accurate. There was an acknowledgment by the Deputy Prime Minister that certain information was conveyed to him in a way that rendered—

An Hon. Member: We are talking about bugging.

Mr. Mulroney: —of which he was not the initiator and for which he was not responsible. The Deputy Prime Minister has indicated that he was entirely without responsibility for the initiation of this—

Ms. Copps: That's right, irresponsible.

Mr. Mulroney: —and he has made no acknowledgment beyond that, but because the Member raises it seriously, I view it seriously. I think, given the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister and given the facts, if my hon. friend has a charge he wishes to lay that he ought to proceed with that charge, with the appropriate consequences.

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS IN 1963-64

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister, consistent with his responsibility as the Leader of Canada, stop stonewalling and immediately launch an investigation into the actions of the Deputy Prime Minister in 1963-64 and his behaviour then?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a matter that occurred some 23 or 25 years ago. I suppose the timeliness of it does not diminish its importance. The matter was raised. The Deputy Prime Minister has responded fully. He has indicated the circumstances whereby certain information was imparted to him. If my hon. friend feels that this is either inappropriate or improper or illegal, an event which transpired a quarter century ago in the circumstances that have been related, I think he ought to lay a charge and the House will deal with it.

CRIMINAL CODE PROVISIONS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I remind the Prime Minister that a former Mountie was recently prosecuted for something which happened over 30 years ago. I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he is now denying the words that