

What I am asking the Leader of the Government to do is to find out for us what the facts are that all of this is supposed to be based on. That is, will he ask the Solicitor General whether or not Mr. Wood used to leak information to him when he was in opposition?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): I think I had better undertake to ask my colleague to comment further on the allegations, and ask him whether he has anything he wishes to add to the statement he has already made that would deal with the point my honourable friend raises.

Senator Frith: I hope the Leader of the Government will particularly, when asking him, say that my interest is really in knowing whether the fact upon which all these allegations are based is true.

Senator Flynn: The allegations were made by whom?

• (1420)

Senator Frith: I'm asking the questions. Do you want me to go over there and answer questions?

Senator Flynn: Who made the remark?

Senator Frith: I'll tell you that.

Senator Flynn: Whom are you hiding?

Senator Frith: There is nothing to hide. I will read the whole thing. It states:

Solicitor General Elmer MacKay debased the Royal Canadian—

Senator Flynn: No! No!

Senator Frith: You asked the question, now you've got to sit and take the answer.

Senator Flynn: That is not the answer.

Senator Frith:

—Mounted Police oath of secrecy when he offered a highly paid post—

I avoided reading all of this but you want it, so you can have it.

—a highly paid post to a former Mountie who used to leak information to him when he was in opposition, Liberal John Nunziata said yesterday.

Senator Flynn: Hah!

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Flynn: That is what I wanted on the record.

Senator Frith: Can the reporter hear all right?

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Order! Order!

Senator Frith: The article continues:

The appointment of Jim Wood, an RCMP corporal, to the Canadian Pension Commission at an annual salary of \$65,000—

I am wondering if the reporter can hear everything.

—at an annual salary of \$65,000—

Senator Flynn: Shame!

Some Hon. Senators: Shame! No!

Senator Frith:

—sends a message—

You asked for it.

—sends a message to other RCMP officers that they can "violate their oath with impunity," Nunziata told the House of Commons.

Senator Flynn: Aha!

Senator Frith: Honourable senators will remember that I avoided mentioning any of these issues. I asked simply for the facts.

Senator Flynn: You did not say everything.

Senator Frith: Now you want more, so you will get more.

Senator Flynn: We don't!

Senator Frith: To continue:

"Indeed, if they violate their oath—

Senator Flynn: Don't bother!

Senator Frith:

"Indeed, if they violate their oath for the greater glory of the Tory party, they may even be rewarded."

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Perrault: Those little brown envelopes.

Senator Frith: Do you want to hear more? Fine.

But MacKay, who used information from Wood to attack the Liberal government when he was on the Opposition benches,—

An Hon. Senator: Shame!

Senator Frith:

—rejected Nunziata's suggestion as "malicious and unfair."

And now for the question: Did that in fact take place? That was my question but Senator Flynn wanted more. He wanted to ask me some questions so I am giving him the answers. Now, when we try to find out if Mr. Wood, when he was a corporal in the RCMP, did or did not leak information to Mr. MacKay, and when Mr. MacKay is asked he says:

"I've known Jim Wood off and on for over a few years as I have many other members of the force,"—

Still no answer.

"He has always served his country well in his function as an RCMP member and I'm sure he'll continue this solid record of public service in his new position."

What we want to know is, when he was serving his country well in his function as an RCMP member, did that good service include leaking information to Mr. MacKay?

Senator Flynn: Did you ever commit a sin?

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, I want to express—

Senator Frith: Senator Flynn has another question for me.