

Oral Questions

• (1430)

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if my hon. colleague opposite would have the nerve to name one person as deliberately misleading the House.

Mr. Nunziata: Doug Lewis.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The whole Government.

Mr. Lewis: Rather than covering it with "the Government".

Mr. Nunziata: Doug Lewis.

Mr. Speaker: If Hon. Members want to argue about that, they can argue about it later. The Hon. Minister will reply to the question.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, immediately that it was discovered that there was a Budget leak, a full criminal investigation was called for involving the RCMP. They were in charge of the entire Budget leak investigation, however many they may be.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dingwall: The plot thickens. It is clear, it is obvious to every reasonable Canadian that the Government had ample knowledge of a number of leaks but refused to inform Parliament.

SECOND BUDGET LEAK—GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape-Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance repeatedly said in the House that it was a leak by Global, why did he refuse to tell Parliament that there was a second leak? Why do you continue to mislead the House?

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Dingwall: Why?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I think that when these unfortunate events occurred a few

weeks ago, the Government acted responsibly. We were advised of the facts just as you were, and we asked for a full investigation by the RCMP. As for any allegations about other facts, even if you knew about them, like any other Canadian, you would have to go to the RCMP and give them the information.

I think a Member of Parliament has a responsibility to respect the work done by the police. The RCMP will inform us of the results of their investigation.

[*English*]

REQUEST THAT RCMP REPORT BE MADE PUBLIC

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. There have been a number of references since the leaks about an RCMP report and an RCMP investigation. It is obvious in the House that there is a conflict of interest on that subject on the part of the Government, which has its own version of these facts that it wants to be validated by the RCMP report.

Therefore, I want to ask the Solicitor General to clear the air by agreeing finally that this report that has been leaked and selectively described by members of the Government will be made public today so that all of us can make up our minds about what the report says and where the responsibility lies?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I am rather surprised at the Hon. Member's question, considering the fact that he is a former solicitor general and is aware of the responsibilities of that position. The Solicitor General and Members of this House have a duty to respect investigations being conducted independently by the RCMP. I believe all solicitors general must adhere to the principle of letting the RCMP do its job.

[*English*]

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I certainly did not and would not make a suggestion that the RCMP was partial or—

Mr. Hawkes: You did. That is exactly what you said.

Mr. Kaplan: —biased in its investigation. I believe the RCMP has made an independent report.