

*Oral Questions***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD***[English]***THE ADMINISTRATION**

OERLIKON AFFAIR—COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBER FOR KITCHENER

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. In commenting upon the Oerlikon affair, the Hon. Member for Kitchener is reported to have made some inflammatory—indeed irresponsible—remarks about Quebec.

*[Translation]*

I realize the Deputy Prime Minister does not share this view and that is why I want to ask him this: Will he, on behalf of the Government of Canada, officially denounce the offensive remark made by the Hon. Member for Kitchener?

*[English]*

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is accurate in his assumption that I do not associate myself with the remarks made by the Hon. Member.

It was an issue that was raised as a question of privilege earlier this day. Because the Hon. Member was absent from the House the Speaker decided that the issue should not be proceeded with. I would like to tell the right hon. gentleman that when the Hon. Member returns to the House I presume he will be making a statement to that effect—

**Mr. Murphy:** Explain!

**Mr. Mazankowski:**—explaining his comments. Until such time as he does that I would submit to you, Sir, it might be inappropriate to speculate or comment upon the meaning or otherwise of the comments that have been made by the Hon. Member.

*[Translation]*

REQUEST THAT PUBLIC INQUIRY BE HELD INTO OERLIKON AFFAIR

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I hope that at some time the Deputy Prime Minister will find it in himself to be even more explicit about the Government's position in this affair. We will wait for the Hon. Member to arrive in the House, but meanwhile, I hope the Deputy Prime Minister will announce the Government's position.

Mr. Speaker, about the Oerlikon affair, although the former Minister of State for Transport and Hon. Member for Saint-Jean apparently asked the Prime Minister to order a public inquiry, the Prime Minister's Office is selectively leaking information about the Hon. Member.

Will the Government order a public inquiry to meet the personal request made by the Hon. Member in question?

*[English]*

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of the question, I am sure the right hon. gentleman would understand that I have not had an opportunity to speak to the Hon. Member for Kitchener. He is due to arrive in Ottawa later this afternoon or tomorrow. I think he would expect me to discuss the issue with him to see whether he was quoted accurately and to get a feeling from him as to just what he did say. Of course, I disassociate myself and the Government disassociates itself from the words that were reported. As the hon. gentleman knows, there are times when there are some inaccuracies—and I am not suggesting that is the case here. However, I think that in fairness the right hon. gentleman would allow me to speak to the Hon. Member first and, if appropriate, I will make a statement.

● (1420)

With respect to his reference to the Hon. Member for Saint-Jean requesting a public inquiry, I am not aware of that. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman might indicate the source of his information.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** It was reported in the media—yes—until now—I think the Deputy Prime Minister should confirm with the Hon. Member when he returns to the House. But I would like to ask another question.

*[English]*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—EX-MINISTER'S BLIND TRUSTEES

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** I have one more question, if I might, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Prime Minister has a responsibility, as we understand it, for the conflict of interest guidelines and for blind trust arrangements made by Ministers. Would the Deputy Prime Minister tell Canadians who were the blind trustees for the ex-Minister? Would he confirm or deny that the ex-Minister's wife was one of those blind trustees, or the president of the provincial riding association of Saint-Jean? Would he clarify that situation for the country?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, now the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is basing his questions on reports in the media. I think that that is one of the difficulties that arises when there is—

**Mr. Allmand:** They have been pretty good so far.

**Mr. Mazankowski:**—when there is so much speculation and innuendo, fabrication, and I would think the right hon. gentleman would want the RCMP to conduct its investigation in an unfettered way.

With regard to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition's questions pertaining to the blind trust, any information that