

irregularities concerning the Oerlikon affair and what they knew of those irregularities?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that goes without saying. That is exactly consistent with the clarity and celerity with which I and the Government approached this matter. I submit that is the position of the Government.

It is interesting to note that yesterday the Member for Sudbury stated the position of the Liberal opposition. He said, as reported at page 2569 of *Hansard*:

Mr. Speaker, our opinion is that the judicial inquiry should precede the criminal investigation.

Our position is that if there is any possibility of a crime having been committed, we must proceed immediately with an inquiry by the police in Canada.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I am holding a copy of the statement on conflict of interest made by the Prime Minister in October, 1985. Since these are the Prime Minister's guidelines on conflict of interest, does he believe, regardless of any RCMP investigation or other inquiry, that it is within his responsibility to tell us whether the former Minister was in conflict of interest?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is my responsibility when apprised of the facts that possibly affect the public interest to decide immediately the best manner in which it ought to be dealt with. It was my judgment, when presented with certain information, that the public interest of Canada could best be served by my immediately turning that information over to the RCMP and asking for a full investigation.

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question will be slightly different. Does the Prime Minister not agree that since these are the Prime Minister's guidelines and the Government of Canada's guidelines, the public has the right to know whether the Prime Minister feels that one of his Ministers has broken his guidelines? Does the public not have the right to know that from the leader of the country and their Prime Minister, apart from an RCMP investigation?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing at all in what I have done or what we have stated in the House that would inhibit the police or anyone else from making a determination in regard to whether guidelines have been infringed. The more important question right now is whether there have been any violations of law. That is where we differ from others in the House. I believe it is

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my responsibility and that of other Members of the House to act consistent with the laws of Canada in this matter.

INFORMATION ALLEGEDLY EMANATING FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Both the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the New Democratic Party have been unable to receive direct answers from the Prime Minister with respect to leaks that have been coming from his office. Members of the Opposition are concerned that the Prime Minister's Office may be attempting by way of selective leaks from his office to prevent the possibility of potential criminal charges ever going to court because of an inability to conduct a fair trial. Is the Prime Minister concerned about the selective leaks that are coming from his office?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has just contradicted completely the arguments made all week by his Leader in favour of the other side, and the position stated exactly by the Member for Sudbury who said you people want a commission with everything floating around rather than prosecutions. I am telling my hon. friend that there is a profound inconsistency between what the Liberals have been saying all week and what the Member is saying today.

Ms. Coppins: No way. Nobody is buying it, Brian.

Mr. Mulroney: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, empowered with this inquiry, shall make their own determination and, as the days go by and events unfold, they shall take whatever action they deem appropriate.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER INVESTIGATE SOURCE OF LEAKED INFORMATION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Prime Minister that the Opposition does not want the Prime Minister's or his staff's directly edited version of the story. We do not want selective leaks that we believe may be designed to prevent this matter from ever being brought to court. Is the Prime Minister not concerned about these selective leaks and will he take action now to investigate the source of those leaks in his own office?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, any act that the police judge to be untoward, unacceptable, or unhelpful, will be investigated fully and completely. It is their responsibility.

Mr. Berger: That is not the job of the police.

An Hon. Member: Who is running the country?

Mr. Mulroney: Any action or any statement by anyone, that is inconsistent with the pursuit by the police of a full investigation, should be dealt with by the police. I know that the police