

Oral Questions

question is relevant. I did say it was relevant, and it was in order to have relevant answers that I was suggesting we hear the views—if he wants to make them heard—of the chief justice.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member wants to hear answers from me.

Mr. Clark: Indeed.

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition says, indeed. I gave answers. The opposition does not think I am impartial or qualified to give such answers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: You are right.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member says I am right, and the Leader of the Opposition suggested I should come clean. I have given answers to the best of my ability.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Paproski: You can do better than that.

An hon. Member: Yesterday you were claiming privilege.

Mr. Forrestall: Even Joe Guay could do a better job.

Mr. Trudeau: Obviously, hon. members are not attaching a high value to my answers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Therefore the best course surely would be for them to stop asking me questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

DATE OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. DRURY AND JUDGE
HUGESSEN

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I will do precisely that right now and direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. The minister has indicated to the House in the past that he did in fact have a conversation with Justice Hugessen. Would the minister tell us today if that conversation took place on a date before the hearing began into the case of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs? If that was not the date, what date was it, and from whom did he obtain the information that it was going to be Judge Hugessen who was to be hearing the case?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the telephone conversation to which reference has been made took place the day following the first of the series of hearings conducted by Judge Hugessen, who was in charge of this particular case.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

POSSIBILITY MR. DRURY TOLD JUDGE HUGESSEN CONSUMER'S
MINISTER IMPORTANT PERSON

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Then the minister is confirming that the conversation he had with Judge Hugessen took place after the hearing had begun and while the judge was in the process of making up his mind on the matter. He has indicated to the House that he would not reveal positively—and we have heard his reasons, without necessarily accepting them—what was said to Judge Hugessen. In view of the importance of the allegations that were made in today's press would the minister take this opportunity to at least deny that he made any reference to the fact that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was either a French Canadian or likely to be a very important person, to Judge Hugessen?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member cannot really be serious in his intention when he says he respects my refusal to comment on speculative stories in one respect, but I should take the opportunity to deny another sort of speculative story.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister clearly misunderstood me. I said that I understood from his earlier answers he was not going to tell us in a positive sense what he did say to the judge. He has already said that. I do not accept that answer but I am not pursuing it any longer. The question I am putting to him is, would he at least take the opportunity of clarifying, and I hope denying, that he made any reference to the fact that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was a French Canadian and that he was a very important person? Surely, the minister can at least do that, since it is outside his own terms of reference within which he has answered questions in the House before. Why can he not at least deny that?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised the hon. gentleman is falling for the tactic of ascertaining, rather inefficiently, a fact by setting up a series of straw men to be knocked down.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: The straw man is already going.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO ADVERTISEMENTS BY
AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS RELATING TO GAS MILEAGE

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Does the minister intend to take particular steps to check the figures on gas consumption put out by automobile manufacturers in their advertisements, and find out