

Oral Questions

Member who just asked the question is the only one in the House who was a member of the Hon. Robert Bourassa's Cabinet in May 1987. And in May 1987, when the Hon. Member was a Minister, there was a breach of security. The Minister of Finance did not resign and the Hon. Member supported Mr. Gérard D. Lévesque.

[English]

LEAK OF DOCUMENT—INQUIRY WHETHER
INFORMATION USED FOR PRIVATE GAIN

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The whole country knows that at least two Canadians late yesterday afternoon had private knowledge of the details of the Budget that gave them the access to using that information, for example, on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Today in the late edition of *The Ottawa Citizen* there is a story which states that two days ago another public employee in this city had the same information. It is alleged that he told at least 20 of his friends and relatives.

Mr. McDermid: Name him!

Mr. Broadbent: He says that he did not use it for stock market purposes because he did not understand the stock market or how he could possibly benefit.

Can the Minister of Finance offer us guarantees that there are no Canadians who used this information in the past 48 hours for private gain?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member has any information to the effect that someone has used any information for gain, let him inform the RCMP so that a proper investigation can be done. This is what this Government has done with regard to the breach of security, the criminal act that is alleged to have been undertaken with the result that the document was released to Mr. Small of Global Television. If the Hon. Member has any other information, let him convey that to the RCMP himself.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

POSSIBLE INSIDE TRADER ACTION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, it is the Minister of Finance who has the responsibility for Budget information, not Members on this side of the House. He ought to know that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: What responsibilities do you have?

Mr. Broadbent: I want to ask my question of the Minister again since he did not answer. The Minister of Finance knows that the reason for confidentiality and secrecy in Budget matters, among other things, is to avoid inside trader action on the stock market. Since he knows without question that at least two Canadians had that information before the Budget came down—and the story is that another Canadian who had it told 20 more—I want him to assure us that there is no Canadian who used this information for private gain. If he cannot give us that assurance, will he give us his resignation?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, Canadians I think are getting sick and tired of—

Mr. Barrett: You!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):—the political posturing of the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): So is Bob Rae, his colleague, who I think will be taking his place in a very short few months.

Mr. Lapierre: Who will take yours?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The point the Hon. Member has raised was the point of discussion for two hours before lunch. We indicated to the House at that time that when we found out the information, we acted as promptly as we could.

Mr. Riis: No, you did not. Not true!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): We contacted the Leader of the New Democratic Party who is now saying: "Why did you not do something differently?" when he himself was obstructing the efforts that we were undertaking to get that Budget to the House in order to present it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, as a man who was once involved in dealing with stocks in the private sector and who heretofore has acted with responsibility and integrity, I say frankly to him that he knows it is the mere possibility of having access to information that could give private gain that goes to the core of ministerial responsibility as Minister of Finance. For that reason he should resign. He knows that.