

*Privilege*

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** You get me right here.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You insult people and drag in the arguments.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Put the public interest first, put Canada first.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The public interest is that that fellow resign. That is the public interest.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The precedents are very clear.

**Ms. Copps:** Why doesn't the Prime Minister speak? He is going to cut him loose. Why doesn't he defend his Minister?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** If the Hon. Member is suggesting that his Party is going to fall down on the side of the criminal act and support the criminal act that occurred, if that is the choice that they are taking, then I am very, very much—

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame, shame.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Because if he does that, what he is really saying is that, in the future, any act of sabotage such as we have witnessed yesterday is going to become commonplace, so that it will be impossible for any Finance Minister in the future to function, and he should consider that as well.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Oh, come on. Come on.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** The negligence is over there.

**Ms. Copps:** Why doesn't the Prime Minister defend him? He is going to cut him loose.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I am sure that over the course of lunch the Leader of the Opposition may have cause to reflect and think about this, because I think it is a very urgent matter.

**Mr. Simmons:** Get off it.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It is a very urgent matter, and I would hope that he would again put the interests of the country first.

**Mr. Crawford:** Put Canadians first.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Never mind your rich friends. How about the rest of Canadians?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You may regret that remark someday. You are making an underhanded accusation that is totally unfair.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (1250)

**Mr. Gauthier:** You can't tell the truth, Maz, and you know it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Minister has the floor.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** If the Hon. Member opposite is alleging that I had something to do with this budgetary theft that helps my rich friends, then I think that is a very serious charge. If the Hon. Member wants to make that charge, he knows what he can do.

**Ms. Copps:** Who else had the Budget?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I conclude by saying to you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House, that Parliament is not being circumvented in this case. The Budget is before the House now and the honour is still there.

**An Hon. Member:** No, it's not.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It will be at five o'clock. Just because the Leader of the Opposition does not want to co-operate, that does not mean to say that the will of the House will not prevail.

**Ms. Copps:** Another cheap shot.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Parliament is not being circumvented, nor is the Government on a course which would disallow Parliament from dealing with all aspects of the Budget, so that is not the case at all.

I remind you again, Mr. Speaker, that it was the Opposition that prevented Parliament from working in this case. I make that point again, and again, and again.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Wrong, wrong, wrong.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** They wouldn't come to work.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You're desperate, Maz.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The Minister of Finance acted responsibly under the circumstances and took every step available to ensure that the integrity of the Budget was upheld and that all Canadians were informed as quickly and as fairly as possible. He did it, and I stand 100 per cent behind him in that exercise.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Finally, the Minister of Finance rose in his place this morning at eleven o'clock and explained to his colleagues, his peers in the House of Commons, in a chronological manner, outlining in full detail what occurred—