

Oral Questions

come out, and wherever we do have the specific information, as my colleague, the Postmaster General has said, and as it appears some hon. members have, we most certainly will investigate it to the full.

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INCOME TAX**REASON FOR FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF LEAK OF MR. SPEAKER'S TAX INFORMATION**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact the minister indicated eight or nine days ago he only knew of four persons involved, as disclosed to him by Messrs. Templeton and Berton, will the minister advise this House how his department missed the possibility that these gentlemen involved in questions regarding this information had the Speaker's income tax returns? Does that not show there is a certain amount of inefficiency regarding his investigation of this matter? How did they miss reference to the Speaker's tax information?

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the hon. gentleman that I did know before the broadcast. Although I said on Friday I did not know before the broadcast, I did know. I knew it when the Prime Minister's office told me at 8.10 in the morning and that was about two hours before the broadcast. I did not know the day before as did some hon. members of the opposition. Having regard to the allegations, and I use that word "allegations", the hon. member is making, they have reference to four specific cases in mind and there are no others to my knowledge. If there are other cases, please be specific and tell me which ones they are. Since those four cases were brought to my attention on the day of the Pierre Berton and Charles Templeton show, the investigations have been ongoing. More harm has been done by the allegations made by hon. members opposite than anything else.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1422)

**MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE OF LEAKS OF TAX INFORMATION—
LENGTH OF INVESTIGATION**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the hon. Minister of National Revenue. Can the minister advise this House as to how long the investigation has been going on? Did he know of Mr. Lillie and Mr. Meredith prior to the time the *Globe and Mail* exposed the story? If so, why was he not more honest to this House when he made his declarations in this regard?

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that a good lawyer, such as the hon. member who is speaking to me, cannot deduce from what I have said the reason there was no public statement. We knew Mr. Lillie was involved, but we did not want to spell it

[Mr. Andras.]

out. That was for obvious reasons. It was because of the investigation.

Mr. Whiteway: Oh, oh!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Selkirk often speaks from his seat, rather than rising. He should remain in his seat.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: From whom did you learn that line, Joe?

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): I do not believe I have to repeat what I said before. I will answer the question as to how long the investigation will take place. We will take all the time necessary to make a thorough investigation, so that you will receive all the details of it, if and when they come out. I hope those details will be revealed as soon as possible.

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MANPOWER**LAY-OFFS IN MINING INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO
AVOID**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of unemployment. In view of the fact that Falconbridge Nickel, INCO and Alcan have recently announced lay-offs which total 4,000 or more; and in view of the fact that authorities in the mining industry have predicted by next spring as many as 20,000 mine workers will have been laid off, can the minister confirm the accuracy of those predictions? Can he tell the House what steps he intends to take to ensure that such drastic lay-offs do not occur?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, for the edification of the hon. member who cannot read my title is Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cullen: This kind of hyperbole does absolutely no good, and discourages any hope which people working for INCO or Falconbridge might have that their jobs will be secure or that they might find jobs in the future. In the month of July I indicated, before this kind of hyperbole was being used, that my department alone placed 1,400 miners in jobs. Thus, all is not the gloom and doom that is being spread by the hon. members of the New Democratic Party.

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RESOURCES**POSSIBILITY MINISTER WILL MEET WITH MINING EXECUTIVES
TO DISCUSS LAY-OFFS**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that this