

Supply

fact this money was illegally or fraudulently obtained and abused? If so, why would the hon. member suggest that charges were not laid against these people who fraudulently obtained these funds and misused them, wasted these millions of dollars as alleged by the member for Winnipeg North?

Or, was it in fact that the Auditor General was merely pointing out that the bureaucratic procedures were not properly followed? Did the Auditor General say that there was fraud, theft and millions of dollars of taxpayers' money abused? If so, who are the people who did it? Why were they not charged?

Mr. Pagtakhan: The RCMP—

Mr. Andre: It is not concluded yet. No one has been charged and there is no proof of theft.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pagtakhan: Read the report.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North was recognized earlier. I am sure that he could have the floor later on some time today.

It would be appreciated for law and order and for respect for this House if he would refrain from screaming across the floor and making accusations at this time.

Mr. Pagtakhan: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: If there is a point of order I will listen to it.

• (1550)

Mr. Pagtakhan: Madam Speaker, the government House leader alluded to the question that I posed and indicated my riding. He knew that there were only two—

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member is engaging in debate when he does not have the floor. I have just asked him to please wait until it is his time to debate to rise and make his views known.

There is a minute left for the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, the Auditor General did indicate in his reports that the procedures had not been used. The minister may categorize those as merely bureaucratic. I do not believe that such is the case. That is actually a criticism of his own colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, who sets down those rules which

are necessary for the good and proper awarding of the contract.

When I asked the question in the House some months ago, the government refused to answer the question that I raised on this very topic. If my memory serves me right, it was the government House leader himself who told me he could not answer because the whole issue was the subject of a police investigation.

I rest my case.

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I would just make the point that there is a far cry between that and the blatant statement that millions of dollars of taxpayers' money were wasted in some fraudulent manner. That is an accusation of malfeasance which I do not think should stand unchallenged. We have a tradition in this House: When you charge somebody with violating the law you put your seat on the line. If that charge turns out to be untrue, you resign.

It is instructive, I think, that on this supply day—

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should know that a point of order refers to the rules of this House. I would like to know which rule of the House the hon. member is now invoking.

Mr. Pagtakhan: I cannot cite a specific rule. I beg your indulgence, but I will tell you, Madam Speaker, that I was alluding to the report which indicated that there were illegal violations, violations of several laws. I can show you the page later on, Madam Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member is debating. The hon. minister has the floor.

Mr. Andre: I think it is instructive on this supply day, which is a day provided under the rules for the opposition to deal with the question of supply, i.e. the spending of public funds, that it should decide to raise this subject. I checked the record and over the last two years not once, not on one occasion has the opposition used a supply day to talk about what is intended for that purpose, namely to talk about government spending, how they would do it better and so on. But that is not surprising.

The hon. member stood up and listed alleged illegal activities, improper activities by various people. He managed to slander and libel several people, listed them from newspaper articles. Some had been charged, some had been found innocent. In our system once you are