Oral Questions

NATIONAL SECURITY

INFORMATION RELATING TO FRANK SALES

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, yesterday outside the House the Solicitor General left the false impression that I have taken secret papers that I was not entitled to and not returned them when requested, in an untrue, crude attempt to divert attention from the real issue, that the government should be declassifying and releasing these old security cases so that everyone can understand the problems involved. My question, therefore, is for the Prime Minister who should have knowledge of this case because it first appeared in public print in Toronto newspapers in 1979, and has been repeated elsewhere since.

Could the Prime Minister inform the House why all of the information in the government's hands concerning an ex-Department of National Defence employee named Frank Sales, who now, I believe, lives in Victoria, B.C., who allegedly admitted giving Canadian secret information to the Soviets from both our Moscow embassy and our Tel Aviv embassy, who was never prosecuted but was later rewarded with a government pension—why all that information and all those files should not now be released in full?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I will look into the matter and see if I can make any statement on it to the House.

LEAK TO TORONTO STAR NEWSPAPER

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question, then, is to the Solicitor General, if the Prime Minister does not want to sully his hands with these matters.

Why would the Solicitor General go outside the House yesterday afternoon and make allegations that if I had any information whatsoever about what I called an "inspired leak" to the *Toronto Star* of two weeks ago, about certain allegations concerning ex-Ambassador Watkins, why I would not make those representations to him in private, give that information to him in private, when yesterday afternoon, five minutes before he went out to the press and said that, I did just exactly that in this House, in that corner of the House?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I was not referring to the subject we talked about in that corner of the House. I was referring to the fact that there are some materials missing from the records of the ministry and the RCMP. They were shown as having been given to the minister's suite, and there is no record that exists in our files showing them as having been returned.

(1140)

I was not talking about documents that a minister either generates in his own office and puts "secret" on them or about those he receives from one of his colleagues. I was referring to official secret and top secret documents generated within the

government. If the hon, member will simply indicate that he does not have such documents, or copies of such documents, that will be the end of it.

Mr. Trudeau: Go ahead.

EXPLANATION FOR MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, what I was referring to in my second supplementary question to the Solicitor General was an allegation that he made outside of the House yesterday, namely, that if I had information about what I called the inspired leak to the Toronto Star two weeks ago, which was published in the Friday and Saturday editions, that I should have the courage to tell him privately what that information was when he knew full well five minutes before he went outside of the House to say that I had given him exactly that information. What is the explanation for what I consider a very terrible breach of confidence on the part of the Solicitor General to that allegation?

Mr. Trudeau: Do you have the documents or not?

Mr. Clark: Have you sought them?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I invited the hon. member to make a statement on a very important matter touching secret and top secret documents. In so far as our discussion in the corner was concerned, he can make his statements about what took place. We did discuss that subject but I am not satisfied that we got to the bottom of it

Mr. Clark: Have you sought them?

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

GOVERNMENT GRANT TO CANADIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the parliamentary secretary to the minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport. Yesterday the government announced that the Canadian Olympic Association received some \$1.2 million in compensation for losses resulting from the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. Could the parliamentary secretary indicate to the House how the \$1.2 million was arrived at, if he has that information, and does that amount cover the so-called costs incurred by the Canadian Olympic Association?

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows that the Canadian Olympic Association is in a unique position in that it chooses the athletes to go to the Olympics. Also, the Canadian Olympic Association voluntarily chose to carry out the boycott of the Olympic Games in 1980 on Canada's behalf.