

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT RESULTS OF INQUIRY BE MADE PUBLIC AND  
TABLED IN CHAMBER

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, it is a bit difficult to believe everything that we hear after such an answer. First, can the Minister tell us today that, in the case of such a result, the report of the inquiry will be tabled in this House so that Members may know the truth about the allegations regarding the Minister, his wife and other people and the possible violations of the conflict of interests guidelines? Will this information be made public and tabled in this House?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the RCMP Commissioner does not report to me. Once his investigation has been completed, he uses his own judgment and certain basic criteria to determine independently whether charges will be laid. This is how it must work. If we have other information which might have a relevance on this case, we shall immediately refer them to the RCMP and the RCMP can tell you about it if it so desires.

**Mr. Boudria:** You have just said the opposite!

● (1440)

[English]

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister who is responsible for ensuring adherence to the conflict of interest guidelines. The Prime Minister referred to the Manitoba situation. He will also be aware that while the investigation into the legal aspect of the case was being conducted by the RCMP, the Legislature in Manitoba arranged for a parallel investigation to take place at the same time, which reported to the Legislature. That is exactly what we are asking the Minister responsible in this case—to carry out a parallel investigation while the RCMP is looking into the legal aspects of the case. Why will he not live up to his obligations and do just that?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend asks a question that has been referred to earlier. I indicated a few days ago that notwithstanding the action taken by the Government, this action of itself does not preclude further action at an appropriate time. The law officers of the Crown have advised the Government that such a commission of inquiry at this time would be quite inappropriate, most unhelpful to them in the prosecution of their responsibilities under the Criminal Code and other statutes that exist. The RCMP has been asked to collect information in the public interest, to make determinations, and to report to the courts and otherwise. I think my hon. friend would agree that giving the RCMP a complete mandate and full authority is very much in the national interest and he would want to wait

until such time as the RCMP has taken this action so that we can consider what further steps might be appropriate.

**Mr. Riis:** The Prime Minister cannot have it both ways. He cannot refer to the Manitoba case on one hand and change his mind and say he cannot follow the exact same procedure to have an external evaluation as well as a legislative examination.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada unquestionably believe that the time for an investigation is now and for an announcement to take place before the Prime Minister leaves on his trip to Africa.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** What arrogance!

**Mr. Riis:** I call upon the Prime Minister to remove the whole shroud of a cover-up on this whole affair—

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You are covering up. You are trying to stop the RCMP.

**Mr. Riis:** Will he announce today that the Government of Canada is prepared to conduct a parallel investigation in a committee of the House or to have an external group do the investigation? That is what was done in Manitoba and that is what he referred to earlier. Why not do it now?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend refers to the Manitoba case. On August 15 Premier Pawley said: "Madam Speaker, all the necessary answers will be obtained without jeopardizing the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The co-operation of all Members is required and all members of the public in order to ensure that the RCMP is able to fulfil their obligations to investigate the allegations that are raised". He said: "Madam Speaker, I, for one, will not be a party to jeopardizing the work of the RCMP".

**Mr. Broadbent:** But they had their own inquiry.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You are getting phonier by the minute.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## THE ECONOMY

IMPACT OF BANK RATE REDUCTION

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Considering the Bank of Canada's decision to lower the bank rate to 8.2 per cent last week, could the Minister inform the House what impact this may have on other financial institutions and on the Canadian economy in general?