

Minister has any respect for this institution, I urge him to come clean with the whole story of what he knew about this affair.

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

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition says that the Minister of National Health and Welfare knew. That is false.

● (1420)

He says that the Minister of National Defence knew. That is false.

He says that the Prime Minister knew. That is false.

He says that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans knew. He acknowledged it and took his responsibilities in a way which is completely alien to the Liberal Party which has no respect for the truth or for Parliament.

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

#### VANCOUVER NEWSPAPER REPORT

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, if all those people in Cabinet did not know, you must have some caucus on that side.

My question has to do with a column in the *Vancouver Sun* which stated on Monday, and I quote:

One fisheries source said Mr. Mulroney issued directives on the matter in April and again . . . after lobbying by Maritime Ministers and MPs—

—in May.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** What Minister?

**Mr. Henderson:** My question is directed to the Prime Minister. What Ministers and Members of Parliament, other than the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte, lobbied the Prime Minister? And can the Prime Minister honestly say to Canadians here today that he knew absolutely nothing about this affair until Tuesday night, September 17, 1985?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend asks me about a statement in the *Vancouver Sun* on September 23, which reads:

One fisheries source said Mr. Mulroney issued directives on the matter in April and again in May, after lobbying by Maritime Ministers and MPs.

The statement is absolutely false.

#### OFFICIALS' KNOWLEDGE

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. It is becoming, of course, more apparent than ever before that there has been more than just scuttlebut floating around in the Prime Minister's Office. There were facts about rancid tuna, and decomposed tuna and the Prime Minister's office knew this. Will the Prime Minister tell this House today just exactly

#### Oral Questions

what his senior aides knew, Mr. Anderson and Mr. MacAdam, about this story? Did they know at that time that this tuna was unfit for human consumption?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thought I responded fully to that question yesterday but I will be happy to go through it again for the Hon. Member.

In early July Mr. MacAdam picked up the comment or the scuttlebut, here in Ottawa, to the effect that a network might be airing that kind of—or a story of some kind. He communicated with the official in the office of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who advised him that there was no cause for concern of any kind.

The second meeting to which I referred yesterday involved Mr. Ian Anderson who was visited by two members of the Minister's staff. They gave the assurances that there was no health hazard, that the Minister was acting within his authority and that there was nothing wrong. They asked for Mr. Anderson's view—in the event the program aired that very evening—as to what they ought to do because the Minister was absent from Ottawa. Mr. Anderson immediately advised that they get the most senior official available and make him or her available to the media to respond fully to all inquiries.

One of the things which was given to Mr. Anderson was the transcript referred to by others where the Minister says: "First of all, you must remember that none of this product was unfit for human consumption". This was a flat statement which was made by the Minister in a television interview on June 26. This is a transcript which Mr. Anderson was given.

In light of this, Mr. Anderson gave the advice he gave, which I felt—and I hope my hon. friend would agree—was appropriate in the circumstances.

#### STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MEMBER FOR CARLETON-CHARLOTTE

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, the transcript in the hands of the Prime Minister refers to a million cans of rancid and decomposing tuna. It is a serious matter affecting a \$2 billion industry and 100,000 jobs in Canada. It is unthinkable he would not have informed him.

The Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte today contradicted the Prime Minister. My question to the Prime Minister is this. Does the challenge to put your seat up apply to the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte? If he is wrong and he did not inform caucus and the Prime Minister at the same time, would the Prime Minister have the Hon. Member for Carleton-Charlotte put his seat on the line? Or, would the Prime Minister quit the charade and tell the truth to the House of Commons?

● (1425)

**Some Hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member—

**Some Hon. Members:** Throw him out!

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no.