

Oral Questions

clearly a contradiction of the report she issued on March 14.

In keeping with the minister's commitment made to this House about full disclosure of relevant information in the Al-Mashat case and given that the standing committee on external affairs is having its organizational meeting this afternoon, will she agree that there can be no real inquiry until we have a full and proper production in public of all relevant documents?

Will the minister agree today to release all those documents, the list of which I sent to her office this morning, so that we can have a proper and full and honest inquiry?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the process so far, including the statement made by my hon. colleague and myself, has been an honest one. I think it is regrettable the hon. member has made allegations that are totally unfounded.

Let me say as well that we have agreed there will be an open and honest inquiry. We are going through documents and we are looking at the privacy provisions and at security provisions. We have said from the beginning that we would produce all of the people and all of the relevant materials to the extent that is possible.

I have given this House my commitment on that from the very beginning, and the hon. member knows it.

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NATIONAL UNITY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the government House leader. I have in my hand a whole list—

An hon. member: What is your credit rating?

Mr. Riis: I will come back to the comments made by the Minister responsible for Canadian Unity and some of the cat-calling he has been doing in a minute. I have a number of quotes that he has made, that the Deputy Prime Minister has made, that the Minister responsible for Canadian Unity has made, and that the Prime Minister has made, all calling for a non-partisan approach to the House of Commons.

The Deputy Prime Minister was screaming a few moments ago to my colleague about his concerns regarding one of the provincial governments. Is this what the government House leader means by a non-partisan approach to the House of Commons?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): No, Mr. Speaker. What I meant was that we should adopt as a practice that which was the practice in this House of Commons being an opportunity for members to ask questions, not make accusations, not make representations.

I would ask that we all take a look at Beauchesne's sixth edition, citation 407, which describes how Speakers have suggested we behave. If we follow that, those watching in the galleries and those watching TV would have a lot more respect for all us than they apparently do.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting comment coming from a member of the government who not long ago rushed your chair with their rule books in their hands and brought the House to—

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has a question, would he please put it to the minister?

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns his response to my hon. colleague.

Would he not have to admit that the Rae government introduced a number of policies in response to the fact that the fiscal and monetary policies of this government have resulted in rack and ruin in the province of Ontario and right across Canada?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member gives me an opportunity to explain to the Canadian people just what is going on with respect to spending across the country.

• (1450)

The Government of Canada has kept its program expenditures increase to an annualized rate of about 3.7 per cent since we have been in office. The Government of Ontario introduced a budget that provides a 13.4 per cent annualized increase in one year. That is inconsistent with the co-ordinated policy that is needed in this