

under the provisions of the Income Tax Act and the Elections Expenses Act.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR. REID—INQUIRY AS TO INTERVIEW WITH MR. JACQUES HAMILTON OF MONTREAL "GAZETTE"

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, through the intervention of the President of the Privy Council could I ask one question of the parliamentary secretary? I should like to know if the parliamentary secretary had an interview with Mr. Jacques Hamilton of the Montreal *Gazette* subsequent to an appearance before the standing committee and did he say to Mr. Jacques Hamilton the words which appear in the Montreal *Gazette* of today's date in quotations, the following:

"We put on a lobby," he said, "and we knew about six weeks or so before it was announced that it (the tax) was coming off the boats but not the motors."

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, that quotation is, I believe, taken from the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections. If it is not, then I may well have said it. The discussion I had with Mr. Hamilton of the *Gazette* had to do with the work of the standing committee. We were discussing at that time the problems of confidentiality and information that comes to members of parliament by virtue of their being members of parliament. On that basis, I gave one of the examples where members might have information that was available to them before others simply by dint of being there at that time and representing their constituency.

MR. FAULKNER—INQUIRY AS TO TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT OF OUTBOARD MOTOR COMPANY IN PETERBOROUGH CONCERNING TAX CHANGE ON BOATS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State and ask if he received a telephone call from the president of an outboard motor company in the city of Peterborough within two weeks prior to the reading of the November budget in which the Secretary of State was informed that knowledge concerning the tax exemptions contained in Bill C-40 would be forthcoming and that the source of the information was revealed to the minister at that time. Can he confirm if he received such a telephone call and such information?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I should like to check that out and get back to the hon. member. I did have representations from the Outboard Marine Corporation on the tax measure itself but that is not what the hon. member is asking. I will have to check it out.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question. May I ask the minister if he recalls a conversation with the Outboard Marine Corporation and if, during the course of that conversation, the minister was informed that this company had been informed that the tax exemptions were coming

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and that the source of the information was also revealed to the minister at the time?

Mr. Faulkner: I do not remember that, Mr. Speaker. The thrust of the representation to me was to try and lobby the Minister of Finance to change the tax measure in my capacity as member of parliament for Peterborough. I do not remember the other dimension that the hon. member is talking about but it may have taken place. I will check that. I will telephone the individuals in question.

MR. REID—INQUIRY WHETHER INTERVIEW WITH MR. HAMILTON TAPED—POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING TAPE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary to tell the House now when he had an interview or when Mr. Hamilton interviewed him and was that interview or discussion between him and the newspaper reporter, taped? Has he asked for the production of that tape since this article appeared this morning in the Montreal *Gazette*?

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I believe there were two telephone conversations with Mr. Hamilton; whether he taped them or not I am not aware. If he did so, he did it without my permission. I have not asked for a transcript of what notes he used.

MR. REID—REQUEST FOR NAMES OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS WITH WHOM TAX CHANGE ON BOATS DISCUSSED

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): A supplementary question to the parliamentary secretary. He may not have that information today. Would he be prepared tomorrow to give us the full names of all people with whom he had discussions in departments prior to that change in the tax measure? I agree with the Leader of the New Democratic Party that if there is a leak from a tax measure prior to the measure being brought to the House and the knowledge of the people, the same principle applies to that as to a leak of the budget. Would he give us the full names and be prepared to answer, with a statement on motions, these questions: what conversations did he have with those people; what did those officials say to him at that time; and, what disclosures did he make as a result of those conversations?

● (1500)

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have already tabled the correspondence, the only piece of correspondence with the person who made representation to me about this. I cannot go beyond that. In addition, I have also tabled the document that was referred to concerning the telephone call made by a member of my staff on my behalf. I will look into my files, to see if, indeed, there are any records of representations that I made to other ministers, or to other departmental officials. And if I have such record I will be happy to make it available to the House. I do not know, from glancing at my files this morning, whether that information was kept.