

Oral Questions

every action of this Government in this House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: The Hon. Member may disagree with the decision of the Government and the process that was enacted after the extraordinary events on Wednesday night, April 26. They can disagree with that. It is quite obvious that they have because from the outset they were not prepared to co-operate with the Government.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: I hear some Members across the way saying cover-up. Mr. Speaker, how preposterous. How could this be a cover-up when everything the Government had become aware of was turned over to the RCMP? Then surely, at the appropriate time, the RCMP will deal with this issue in a proper manner.

I would ask the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition to go back to what he said on May 2, 1989: "We will wait to see what comes out of this investigation. We will want to see what the RCMP report says about the incident". Why doesn't he live up to his words, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Boudria: I say to the Deputy Prime Minister: Thank you very much, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver Maz. I want to ask him the following supplementary question.

[*Translation*]

THE SECOND BUDGET LEAK—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Minister of Finance admitted in the House that Cabinet, in the widest sense of the word, had been informed and had collectively decided to hide the truth from the House of Commons because there was an investigation by the RCMP. I would like to know—

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I may not have heard completely what the Hon. Member was saying, but it seems to me what he is saying is that one of the Ministers has deliberately hid the truth from the House.

Mr. Boudria: No.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member could put his question again.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Deputy Prime Minister is this: Exactly who in the Cabinet decided not to inform the House about the second Budget leak? Was it the Minister of Finance, was it the Deputy Prime Minister himself or was it the Prime Minister? Could we have the truth and have it now?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, that question has been answered before. The decision about the way in which the Budget was going to be handled was taken on Wednesday night. The Budget was released at that particular time. The Budget was in the public domain.

The Opposition were making all sorts of charges and allegations and suggestions that there was more than one leak. We said: "If you have that information, it should be reported to the RCMP". This matter on Thursday became a matter for the law enforcement agency to look after; it became a law enforcement matter and no longer a budgetary matter. It is in the hands of the RCMP. Let them do their work. What we have here again is—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville.

• (1430)

INQUIRY AS TO DELAY IN INFORMING MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I remember very well on the evening of the leak, April 26, when the Minister of Justice stated on television that the Government would be open and above board regarding the leak.

In light of that, in light of the fact that last week the Minister of Finance would not say why his staff had not informed him of the Mutual leak either before or during Question Period, in light of the fact that the Minister would not say when his staff had made a phone call to the Prime Minister's Office to let the Prime Minister know, and in light of the fact that the Minister of Finance would not say who on his staff had taken the call from Mr. Masterman at about 1.30 on that afternoon, and assuming that the Minister of Finance did not know until after Question Period, what I want to know and what the Canadian people want to know is who made the decision to keep the Minister of Finance in the dark for