

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the specific allegation which my hon. friend makes. I am aware of the existence of the problem which I consider to be serious. It is obviously a deficiency which I am informed has, regrettably, existed for some years in terms of the procedure which must be corrected. Mr. Tellier and his colleagues are acting in that regard now. I will be happy to report to my hon. friend and to the House and to give them the assurance that that procedure has been tightened up to ensure that this kind of situation cannot recur.

* * *

THE ADMINISTRATION

OERLIKON LAND TRANSACTION AT SAINT-JEAN—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF SECURITY INJURY ASSESSMENT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and is with regard to the Government's compliance with its own security policy. The former Minister's wife and his friend and campaign manager are both alleged to have personally profited from this rather sordid land transaction. The Minister apparently personally intervened in the land rezoning and the setting of the price of the land in this transaction.

Therefore, does the Prime Minister recognize that there has been a probable breach of security according to the Ministry's own security guidelines? Will the Prime Minister confirm that a written injury assessment will be or has been ordered pursuant to the provisions of this security policy? Most important, will the Prime Minister undertake to make that written injury assessment public rather than continuing to stonewall and cover up on this very serious matter?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my friend is asking about a written injury assessment. We are not asking for written injury assessments. We are telling the police to go ahead and investigate and, if required, prosecute fully. If anyone has violated anything, they are to put them in jail.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is hiding behind the skirts of the RCMP and refusing—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Robinson: —to obey his own Government's security policy.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are really disgusted with the facts surrounding this matter, the fact that the Minister's wife

Oral Questions

would have personally benefited—the fact that the Minister himself had made representations to City Hall—

Mr. Speaker: Order! The Hon. Member must ask his question.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, considering the gift made to the former minister's friend, when will the Government stop covering up and order a public inquiry? When will we get a public inquiry?

[*English*]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): From my skirt to yours.

[*Translation*]

On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, when certain facts were brought to our attention, we immediately ordered a complete and full police investigation. The chief law officers of the Crown have formally advised us that a new inquiry at this time could prejudice the police investigation. Clearly, public interest is served by a full RCMP investigation in order not only to inform the Canadian public but possibly to start prosecution if necessary.

I think the Government has acted not only firmly and quickly, but in the public interest and, according to the law officers of the Crown a commission of inquiry appointed at this time, as indicated in similar circumstances by Premier Pawley in Manitoba, could prejudice a full and complete investigation.

I hope, therefore, that my hon. friend will agree with me that the police investigation which has been ordered is the right way to proceed in the public interest.

[*English*]

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—ROLE OF RCMP

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in a previous answer today the Prime Minister said that all the information regarding the Oerlikon affair was referred to the RCMP. Presumably this includes potential breaches of the conflict of interest guidelines. Since the Prime Minister said that that was the route which was to be used, can he tell us how and where the RCMP gets its authority to investigate breaches of the conflict of interest guidelines? If the RCMP does not have that authority, is it not obvious that without a public inquiry we will never learn the truth?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, because that is quite wrong. In fact, if the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in the course of criminal inquiries—as the former Solicitor General knows full well, having been advised by the Commissioner himself—come across any matters of direct or indirect interest to the Government, they have a responsibility to report it, as they have and they shall. This is totally consistent with the broad mandate given to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.