

In view of the fact that the Budget has announced that the proposed submarine program will be cut, along with closures of 14 military bases across Canada, one of which is in my constituency, I ask the Minister whether he can assure this House that other areas of the White Paper, in particular reinforcement of the reserves unit, will still be put into force? Further, I ask him to assure my constituents that he is prepared to work with all other federal Departments to help replace the economic loss of that area.

**Mr. Gauthier:** That is out of order.

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence):** I can appreciate the interest of my hon. colleague in the Budget, the necessity of the Budget, and what has been brought about. The White Paper and the broad parameters of the White Paper will be maintained. Also reserves will continue to be increased. We will not be able to make the estimate of some 65,000, but the reserves will continue to be a total part and a very important part of the build-up of military strength.

Regarding the closures that have to take place—

**Some Hon. Members:** Out of order.

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### THE BUDGET

#### REASON FOR LACK OF NOTIFICATION OF HOUSE LEADERS

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** I have a question for the Minister of Finance. When he got that report from the journalist, did he not recognize his own Budget, which he wrote himself? If that was the case, why didn't he and the Government House Leader come clean, at least with the House Leaders of the Liberal Party and the NDP right away? Why did he create that problem by his own negligence?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** The Hon. Member knows that in anticipation of a Budget there are all sorts of stories going around, all sorts of speculation by Members opposite as well as members of the media, so that it is important that before we jump to those conclusions, we find out just precisely what we were dealing with before making those decisions.

**Mr. Gray:** Canadians will find it hard to believe that the Minister did not recognize his own Budget when he was told about it.

### Oral Questions

I want to ask the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice a question, especially since I was in the House at the time the Minister of Justice moved his motion for extended hours, I was there and stood up to block the motion, along with at least 15 other people. I ask the Minister of Justice why he didn't come over to me and even ask me if I would help him deal with the matter on my oath as a Privy Councillor? Why did he let two hours or more go by so people could make use of the information? Why did he not once again, I ask him, release the whole problem?

**Mr. Simmons:** You blew it, Doug. You blew it.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board) and Acting President of the Treasury Board):** Contrary to the suggestions made previously, I came into the House, was recognized, and immediately moved the motion under the rules with no debate whatsoever, so there was no misleading of the House.

**Ms. Coppins:** Why didn't you tell the truth?

**Mr. Lewis:** I say to my hon. friend yes, my hon. friend was in the House and stood up to block the motion, but when I entered the House my hon. friend was not here.

• (1500)

We took the precaution of trying to keep the House open so that if it was substantiated that there had been a Budget leak we could have come into the House. However, once again the opposition blocked us.

**Mr. Speaker:** A single question from the Hon. Member for Burnaby.

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### THE BUDGET

#### INQUIRY ABOUT PERSONAL PROFIT

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. We have heard from the Solicitor General that a full inquiry has been ordered into the possibility that individuals may have profited personally from the Budget leak, including an inquiry with securities commissions.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance's own colleague recognizes the possibility that there may have been personal profit as a result of this Budget leak, what else does it take for the Minister of Finance to do the honourable thing and resign? Does he not recognize his responsibility?