

*Oral Questions*

The only thing I can confirm right now is that we are investigating one leak, which is the one that resulted in Doug Small getting a copy of that publication.

Who is telling the truth? Is the RCMP investigating one leak or two leaks? If it is investigating a second leak, why can the Minister not give us the information as to when the Minister of Finance knew about the second leak? He can supposedly tell us who profited and who did not. Why can he not tell us when the Minister of Finance knew?

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said earlier. There is a difference between leaks and allegations, a big difference. I said yesterday that I have been informed by the Commissioner of the RCMP that so far, there is no evidence of profiteering by anyone from the Budget leak. What I said was that I was informed by the Commissioner and there is nothing more I can add to that.

## CONTRADICTION IN STATEMENTS

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, there is a tremendous contradiction here. We are told that we cannot have information that is as a result of an RCMP investigation. We are told that no one is profiting from this, something which must be part of the RCMP investigation. Yet we cannot have an answer to the simple question, when did the Minister of Finance know about this leak? This is a flagrant disregard for the rules of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, I think that it was responsible to inform this House when the Commissioner of the RCMP informed me himself that to date we had no information or any evidence that anyone profited from the leak. Maybe I could ask the Hon. Member that if he or any other Hon. Member in this House has information to the effect that some people could have profited from the leak, they should go to the RCMP and give them the information. I think that Canadian people should be reassured and know exactly what is going on. And this is what I did; I informed the House.

[*English*]

## KNOWLEDGE OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister who just a minute ago referred in the House to the distinction between leaks and allegations of leaks. Everyone would agree with that, but we want the Government to understand that there is a distinction between the truth and misleading the people of Canada as well.

There was a serious claim in the press this morning that the Deputy Minister of Finance had been informed about an earlier leak of the Budget. My office contacted the Deputy Minister's office this morning and he refused to comment on it. I would like the Deputy Prime Minister to comment on it. Will he confirm that there was a second leak and will he tell the people of Canada at last when the Minister of Finance learned of that leak?

• (1200)

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member and you, Sir, that I would not take any lessons about the truth from the Hon. Member. I can tell you that because he has a very—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It is quite obvious that he has been known to exaggerate beyond the limits from time to time. Mr. Speaker, I can only assume that this is part of the ongoing investigation. Surely the Hon. Member does not want the RCMP investigation to take place on the floor of the House of Commons. He ought to know better. He has been around here for 21 years. Has he not learned anything yet?

## HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IN POLITICS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, this is not a criminal investigation that we are involved in here in the Parliament of Canada. It is honesty and integrity in politics. That is what this Government is lacking. I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister, why will he not answer the question? If he wants to claim, as there is, a distinction between allegations and a leak, will he tell us when the Government first heard the claim that there was a second leak?

We were told that the Deputy Minister of Finance was informed on the morning that the Minister of Finance