

*Oral Questions*

ACCOUNTABILITY TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I will say to the Deputy Prime Minister the reason I am being so persistent is because—

**Mr. Mazankowski:** It is the phoniest fight of your life.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):**—it is not a police matter, it is a parliamentary matter. It has to do with the accountability of the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister to the House of Commons.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Deputy Prime Minister was getting a little personal. I want to say to him this. I know that he is in a difficult position. He is stonewalling for the Minister of Finance. He is stonewalling for the Prime Minister.

I want to recall to him the similarity between the position he finds himself in and the position of his predecessor, the then Hon. Member for the Yukon, who stonewalled for the Prime Minister on the Sinclair Stevens affair.

A great deal of parliamentary exchange is gratuitous. I feel in my gut that the Deputy Prime Minister knows more than he is telling this House of Commons. I am pleading with him to come clean with the House before this whole thing breaks open.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Retire your gut.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader when he gets into a bit of a jam becomes childish and foolish. That is what he is doing right now.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** His own Member—

**Mrs. Gaffney:** You are on the run.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I can run a heck of a lot faster than you can.

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

**Mr. Tobin:** Cover-up.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I will put my record up against your record any day.

**Mr. Tobin:** We will see.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, one of his own Members, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg South Centre, as reported at page 1032 of *Hansard* said: "There is now evidence that that leakage was widespread and that there were a number of sources." I presume—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Are you admitting it?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** No. I presume that if the Hon. Member had evidence of that, he turned it over to the RCMP. If he did not, he should have. If he has not, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition should petition his colleague to ensure that it is turned over to the RCMP.

[*Translation*]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW FACTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and deals with the Budget leak. I have before me a copy of the *Hansard* of the House of Commons for May 18, in which the Solicitor General is quoted as saying, also on the matter of the second Budget leak:—the investigation has included, from the outset of the situation, the press story referred to. This is on page 1912 of *Hansard*. How then can the Deputy Prime Minister conciliate the admission yesterday by the Solicitor General that the RCMP was aware of all those facts since the beginning, and the following statement made by the Prime Minister in this House, and I am quoting from page 1036 of *Hansard*:

"—the Solicitor General has said if any information comes to him he will report to the House immediately—"

Why did the Solicitor General not report to us this new information he himself recognized yesterday in this House? Why did he hide that fact from the House of Commons?

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, we have nothing to hide. I indicated to the House the very next day we already had set in motion a complete investigation of all the facts from the moment the document involved was shown on TV. And I also requested—and this is what I was referring to yesterday, what I am pointing out to the Hon. Member—that from the very beginning, they would look into any possibility of people profiting from a leaked Budget document before the Budget speech. This is what I was specifically referring to yesterday, and I believe this is the responsible course of action. As I suggested yesterday and as I am saying again today: the RCMP Commissioner, pursuant to that specific request I made on the behalf of all Canadians I