

Oral Questions

It is the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and, indeed, other members of the Cabinet who must answer questions here in this Chamber about their incompetence, negligence, stupidity, stonewalling, misrepresentation, political manipulation, and cover-up.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Charest: We don't talk about Liberals that much.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the concern of the right hon. gentleman, but he is getting awfully close to identifying certain people and applying names to them. I think he should be very careful about that.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I do not have to identify them. The people of Canada will be the judges through the representatives of the people here of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and the Deputy Prime Minister.

I put my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. According to the news release yesterday of the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police there has been, and I quote the release, "completion of the investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police into the leaks of the *Budget in Brief*".

Will the Deputy Prime Minister now honour the Prime Minister's commitment given to us here in the House of Commons on April 27 and provide Parliament with the complete findings of the RCMP as to who knew what and when?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I think there are two sides to the question put by the Right Hon. Member. We now have charges that have been laid before the court, and I imagine the Hon. Member will agree that if those who have been charged are to have a fair trial, it is essential not to comment on the case.

As for the other side of the Hon. Member's question, I may refer to what has been said repeatedly in the House during the last few weeks. The question whether anyone benefited from prior knowledge of the Budget is still being investigated. As soon as that information—I already said that the RCMP Commissioner has informed me that so far, no one had benefited from prior knowl-

edge of the Budget. However, Mr. Speaker, the investigation is continuing.

REQUEST THAT CERTAIN PERSONS BE SUMMONED TO
THE BAR OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I quoted a commitment made here in the House by the Prime Minister of Canada that all necessary information would be revealed as soon as the RCMP had completed its investigation. I am certainly not going to intervene in the trial, although the Prime Minister has already qualified certain people as criminals.

I realize that charges are about to be laid. However, there are also some very basic questions that arise in connection with our parliamentary democracy, and I am referring to the question of ministerial responsibility and the integrity of this Government.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance cannot use criminal charges as an excuse for refusing to tell us what they knew, when they knew it, and why they decided to hide the truth from Parliament.

I therefore have the following question for the Deputy Prime Minister: He has already had 24 hours to reflect. Will the Clerk of the Privy Council, the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff be called to the bar of the House of Commons to inform the House about what happened on the afternoon of April 27, when the truth was hidden from Parliament? Mr. Speaker, my question has no connection with the criminal charges that will be laid. What we are talking about is ministerial responsibility, here in Parliament.

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as to when the Minister of Finance was made aware about the Mutual Life incident, he has answered that question on numerous occasions. They are as follows: Wednesday, May 24, as reported at pages 2088, 2089, 2090 and 2094 of *Hansard*; Thursday, May 25, as reported at pages 2143 and 2144 of *Hansard*; and on Friday, May 26, as reported at pages 2200 and 2203 of *Hansard*. We spent the whole of Question Period yesterday outlining in full detail the sequence of events.

Just because the Leader of the Opposition does not like the answers does mean to say that Ministers are not accountable. We have been here answering and responding to the questions that have been asked. I am sorry that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition does not like the answers. He should know very well that there are