

Oral Questions

Mr. Rodriguez: My supplementary question to the Prime Minister is a question that not only this House but the whole nation wants to know the answer to. Who was on the bridge of the Canada Valdez on April 27 between 1330 hours and 1500 hours?

Mr. Ouellet: Nobody.

Mr. Rodriguez: Where was the captain, below deck? Who was in charge of the ship, the three bureaucrats?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have enough trouble some time. I hope he does not hold me responsible for the *Valdez*. The fact of the matter is that the information—

An Hon. Member: It was on automatic pilot.

Mr. Mulroney: Perhaps, then, let me take a second. The Budget was scheduled to be released. The night before we were advised, as was the country, of the fact that clearly a Budget document had been improperly or perhaps illegally released.

As a result of that I immediately convened my senior Ministers. We asked the permission of the opposition Leaders to come immediately before the House, to lay it on the floor of the House of Commons. That permission was refused. Because of that, I then instructed the Minister of Finance to make it public immediately via the media. I instructed as well that an inquiry by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a complete police inquiry, be initiated immediately. That was done.

Any information subsequent thereto was conveyed by the Deputy Minister of Finance or by the Clerk of the Privy Council or by others to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, where it ought to have been left so that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police could conduct a thoroughly independent, impartial inquiry—

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[*Translation*]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

WAR AGAINST DRUGS

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General of Canada and concerns the national annual report on drugs published by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The report shows that the fight against drugs has been successful, since drug seizures have more than doubled.

However, the report also mentions that the drug trade generates between \$5 and \$15 billion annually, and that the number of users has tripled during the last two years.

Could the Minister inform the House, and thus reassure Canadians, about measures that will be implemented to strengthen our collective resolve and deal with a problem that has become a veritable plague? Especially considering that in a recent report published by the Library of Parliament, costs related to drug abuse in Canada totalled \$11.5 billion in 1984.

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises a very important point. The figures released this week are of considerable concern to our Government. With the help of police forces at both the municipal and provincial levels, we are trying to maintain a relentless campaign against drug trafficking. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we have set up an anti-drug strategy costing over \$200 million with the help of our colleagues at Customs and Excise, Health and Welfare and other departments, in order to provide better information for Canadians and keep our 10, 12 and 13 year-olds from falling into the drug trap laid by traffickers. I would urge all Canadians to help us in this campaign.

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THE BUDGET

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I am told that when the Prime Minister is in this country, he likes to read all the papers every day. I have a message for the Prime Minister. In his absence—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member may have a message, but the Prime Minister is waiting for the question.

Mrs. Marleau: All the editorials across this country asked for the resignation of the Minister of Finance. The Prime Minister is facing a lack of confidence in his Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member would like to get to the point and put her question, please!

Mrs. Marleau: Will the Prime Minister ask for the resignation of his Minister of Finance, since the Minister is no longer able to perform his duties?