

Inquiries of the Ministry

loss of income. I am not sure about the exact figures but in fact we already have some programs under way to help the situation with respect to eggs. We have also announced that there will be a program under the Agricultural Stabilization Act as soon as the figures for 1971 are available.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member will be able to put his supplementary in a few moments.

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[English]

HARBOURS**VANCOUVER—SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT OF FARM REPRESENTATIVE TO PORT AUTHORITY**

Mr. William Knight (Assiniboia): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the importance of the port of Vancouver to the prairie provinces, is the minister considering the appointment of a farm representative on the Port of Vancouver Authority?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Not on the Port of Vancouver Authority, Mr. Speaker. As the new member is aware—I welcome him to the House; it is the first opportunity I have had to do so—there will be a national ports council on which all three prairie provinces will be represented and the governments of those provinces have to my knowledge already submitted names of the appointees.

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NATIONAL SECURITY**AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT OF SPECIAL FORCE**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): I have a question for the Solicitor General and it may involve a question of parliamentary privilege. Under what authority is the special force headed by Colonel Robin Bourne paid since it seems to the opposition to have been set up since the estimates for the minister's department were presented and approved?

• (3:00 p.m.)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Vote 1 of the estimates of my department, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**LEAKING OF CABINET DOCUMENTS—DATE OF REPORT ON INVESTIGATION—POSSIBLE PROSECUTIONS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the continuing interest in the subject of

[Mr. Olson.]

cabinet leaks, I would ask whether investigations are still being pursued, whether the RCMP are involved, and whether he has given any indication of a date by which he would like a report in this connection?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The matter is still being looked into. There is no indication of any time at which any report might be made.

Mr. Alexander: In light of the fact that the investigation will more than likely point the finger at some person or persons, is it the intention of the government and the Prime Minister to lay charges against such person or persons who may be responsible for the leaks?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that the question is hypothetical at this stage.

Mr. Alexander: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I take the opportunity to rephrase the question? Is it the policy of the government—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member sought the floor on a point of order but he merely wishes to rephrase the question. I shall allow him to do so in a moment. First, I shall recognize the hon. member for Palliser.

[Later:]

LEAKING OF CABINET DOCUMENTS—POLICY OF GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH OFFENDERS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Supplementary to my last question, which was perhaps somewhat ill-phrased, I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether it is the policy of the government to lay charges against those who are responsible for leaks regardless of who he or she might be?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I can hardly state the government's policy on this complex matter in answer to a question. As the hon. member knows, it is unlikely we would deal with a leak from a cabinet minister in the same way as we might in the case of somebody else, and it is unlikely we would deal with it in the same way if it were a member of the public who was infringing the Official Secrets Act. In other words, there are various ways of getting at someone who is responsible for a leak and I do not know in advance, without being specific on hypothetical cases, how I could say we would act.

Mr. Diefenbaker: One law for the powerful and another for the civil servants.

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ENERGY**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON TALKS WITH UNITED STATES**

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the government received a report on the energy talks in Washington last week from its officials who attended those talks, including Mr. Robert Howland, chairman of the National Energy Board?