

today, is that since the research establishments of the various parties have been funded they have been the main source of most of the questions on the order paper.

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

**Mr. MacEachen:** If we want to remove obstacles in the way of feeding information to the House, then I suggest that the principal obstacle can be removed by directing research staffs not to send in indiscriminate and useless questions, the answers to which can be found in the favourite document of the Official Opposition, the Canada Year Book.

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

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

**An hon. Member:** Threat!

**An hon. Member:** Blackmail!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I see seven or eight members to my left who wish to rise.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I have a right to rise on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have no objection to recognizing the right hon. gentleman. He has the same rights as others and will be recognized in due course. But I am wondering whether we will achieve very much by pursuing a debate such as this for a good part of the afternoon. Perhaps we should set aside a special period of time to discuss this important subject. I believe that for the moment the right hon. member for Prince Albert seeks the floor on a point of order raised originally by the hon. member for Trinity.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the gratuitous remarks of the minister I would advise him that during my period of office there were so few Liberals in the House they were not able to ask the number of questions that are being asked now.

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

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

**An hon. Member:** It's going to be that way again.

● (1420)

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, we answered the questions and we answered them truthfully.

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

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

**An hon. Member:** Withdraw!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, that interruption came from a member who is not dry behind the ears yet. We did not follow the course being followed by this government of treating the House with contempt and refusing to answer questions or neglecting to do so when there might be any embarrassment in the answers given.

#### *Order Paper Questions*

**An hon. Member:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Would the hon. gentleman stand and be recognized? I would also point out that so far as starred questions are concerned the ordinary practice is that they shall be answered within two to four days.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Not by this government, that is true, but the practice is that they would be answered within that period.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** You are still dreaming.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What is happening today is that not only can we not get answers but when questions are asked the government decides, to apply the words of the hon. gentleman, that the questions are of such a nature as not to appeal to the sensibilities of the government. Mr. Speaker, we are not asking questions on the basis of pleasing them; we ask them for the information of the Canadian people.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Trinity rose on a point of order and a debate has followed, with views expressed by both sides of the House. I respectfully suggest to hon. members that the point has been made. The Chair has noted the representations and submissions made by hon. members who have taken part in this exchange on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Trinity, but I wonder whether we should not at this point proceed to the next item of business.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Trinity has had the floor on the point of order and I really do not think there is much to be gained by pursuing the matter. The hon. member can speak only once to a point of order. He has already spoken. I would hope the hon. member would agree with me that not much can be gained by starting a new round of exchanges on the same point of order.

**Mr. Hellyer:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, arising from the intervention of the government House leader, I must say I was flattered by his attention, but I would have been more impressed if my questions had had the same attention two or three months ago.

I would also like to speak to the allegation that the questions asked by this side of the House are prepared by research officers paid for by the Crown.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Do you deny it?

**Mr. Hellyer:** I can tell the House leader through you, Mr. Speaker, that in the majority of cases of which I am aware this is not the case, and it is certainly not the case with respect to the questions I have put down.

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

**Mr. Hellyer:** Much has been made of the statistics showing that the government has answered a high proportion