

Oral Questions

consent of the House to move a motion on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

Since the agreement, concluded between the government of Canada and that of the province of Quebec under an act approved on May 13, 1942 concerning the suspension of certain wartime taxes, expired on March 31, 1947; also, in view of the fact that the said agreement had been concluded so as to allow Canada to provide a maximum effort during World War II and that the said war has been over for 31 years; that the government of Canada recognized at the time that the province of Quebec, in making this commitment, did not relinquish or turn over any part of its sovereignty nor any of its rights, powers and privileges under the Constitution; and that it also appears from subsections 2 and 9 of section 92 and also from section 121 of the British North America Act that a provincial legislature is entitled to levy direct taxes on its territory to constitute a revenue for provincial purposes, I move seconded by the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette):

That this House urge the federal government to return as soon as possible to the province of Quebec all rights of direct taxation that it borrowed from the said legislature for wartime purposes since the province of Quebec had agreed to suspend temporarily the levy and collection of certain taxes on income and corporations only for this purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent; the motion therefore cannot be put.

● (1410)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY

PARTICIPATION OF SOLICITOR GENERAL IN GUIDELINES ISSUED TO SECURITY SERVICE—MEETING WITH GENERAL DARE

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: I appreciate the nervous reaction on the other side.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Questions were raised yesterday about a serious apparent discrepancy between a position taken by a senior public servant and the Prime Minister. I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General who yesterday told the House at page 13196 of *Hansard*, that he intended

[Mr. Allard.]

“to get all the information before answering the question”. Considering any guidelines which were issued by the Prime Minister or by a cabinet committee with regard to restricting RCMP inquiries into any segment of the Canadian public, will the minister now advise the House if he was aware of the guidelines referred to specifically in the exchange of correspondence between General Dare and Mr. Bourne and if he participated in any way in the decision to issue such instructions?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, since yesterday I have looked into this matter thoroughly. I have found that what is in question is a cabinet decision with respect to the operations of the security service which had been conveyed to the RCMP. This cabinet decision dealt with, among other things, and confirmed that the RCMP should not survey legitimate political parties per se, but of course individuals in all political parties should be subject to surveillance if they are suspect with regard to criminal activities, subversion, violence or anything like that. That cabinet decision was based on a document that I had submitted to cabinet. It had first been screened or dealt with by the cabinet committee on security intelligence. A decision had been made and submitted to full cabinet. Cabinet confirmed it and it was passed on to the RCMP.

I guess the difficulty has arisen through the use of terminology. General Dare described the conveyance of the decision of the cabinet as guidelines. It was really a cabinet decision. It dealt with general operations only of the security service and did not deal with security screening of applicants for the public service. It did not deal with that. The letter of General Dare asked for clarification as to whether the general operations and policies might apply to the security screening, and that is what led to the further correspondence.

Mr. Clark: The letter of General Dare did not make a specific reference to the cabinet but rather a quite personal specific reference to the Prime Minister and to a discussion with the Prime Minister. I wonder if the Solicitor General has spoken with General Dare regarding this matter, and I wonder whether he can tell the House if it is still the position of General Dare that there was a discussion with the Prime Minister and, as stated in the February letter, that the Prime Minister issued certain guidelines and that the Prime Minister spoke specifically of the Party Quebecois.

Mr. Allmand: I did meet with General Dare this morning.

Mr. Fairweather: It must have been a happy meeting.

Mr. Allmand: It was a very good meeting. General Dare was really speaking about his participation in the meeting with the security and intelligence committee, and there was no direction from the Prime Minister. Of course, the Prime Minister was part of the committee, as were many other ministers and members of the security community who participate in those meetings, but the decision General Dare was talking about, the cabinet decision, was a decision of the cabinet as a whole and the cabinet committee as a whole and was not the result of any private meeting between General Dare and the Prime Minister.