

Therefore, it is inexact to say that anything contained in this letter is government policy.

Mr. Nielsen: Since the Solicitor General choses not to answer my question—

Mr. Trudeau: He can answer, too.

Mr. Nielsen:—as to whether or not he was aware of these instructions which the letter sets forth, clearly indicating personal interference of the Prime Minister with the investigation of the RCMP, let me ask him this. On November 27, 1975 in response to a question by the hon. member for Halifax as reported on page 9492 of *Hansard* for that date, the Prime Minister stated:

... when the police or the Solicitor General informed me that they were going to carry out an investigation of some well known member of the Canadian public, whether Liberal, Tory, NDP or somebody outside, I always told them, "Look, do your duty; I do not want to interfere in any way."

The Prime Minister went on to say, as reported on page 9501:

... there are no orders, no theory and no practice under which the police must ask my permission to talk to any minister, any member of the House of Commons or any member of the Canadian public.

In the light of that statement, taken together with the letter which the Prime Minister says he has read, I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he does not consider the issuance of guidelines restricting RCMP inquiries into any segment of the Canadian public to be in direct contradiction to government policy as stated by him on November 27, 1975.

Mr. Trudeau: The short answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. The longer one is that such guidelines were not issued and do not exist. That is why I say there are some inaccuracies in this letter. The statement I made, and which the hon. member quotes—I have not refreshed my mind with respect to it and it is obviously *ad lib*—still stands as I heard it now. This does not mean that the police do not operate under ministers and under a government responsible to parliament; if they ask us for instructions in the pursuance of their duties it does not mean we cannot examine the matter. This has been the subject of study by a royal commission set up some years ago followed by indications from this government as to the manner in which it wanted the security force to exist and operate. Unlike the opposition, we have confidence in the RCMP and we do not rely on gumshoes to do the work which we believe the police can do.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REASON PRIME MINISTER ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO SECURITY SERVICE

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I might observe that in the light of the Prime Minister's reply some doubt arises as to whether or not General Dare should continue in his present post, having regard to what he says in this letter. But may I put this question to the Prime Minister: since it is the primary responsibility of the Solicitor General to oversee the function of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, can the right hon. gentleman explain why he took it

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upon himself to issue the directives that General Dare says were issued rather than direct the matter to the attention of the Solicitor General who has to take responsibility for the RCMP?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The answer to that is quite simple. I hope the hon. member will not, when I give it, use, as he did, the words, "interference with the work of the RCMP". There were no guidelines issued by me or any interference by me. There is a cabinet committee on security and intelligence which oversees the operation of government agents in the area of security and intelligence. Certain conclusions were reached which were communicated to the police. They were not communicated by me personally or under my name. They were the object of a cabinet decision. If the letter says and implies the contrary, it is just an indication of mistakes in the letter. This bears out what I was saying earlier—that the letter contains several errors.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY

INQUIRY WHETHER PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS MEMBERS EXEMPTED FROM INVESTIGATION BEFORE BEING HIRED

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question also concerns the right hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Dare states in his letter that, because of discussions held concerning investigation criteria for employees who are to join the civil service, normally an investigation should be done for those individuals. Mr. Dare says that in the case of a member of the Parti québécois he would have been asked by the Prime Minister not to carry out an investigation, except of course, if this individual had been involved in a violent incident. Is Mr. Dare telling the truth or not? That is the question I am asking the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I bring the attention of the hon. member to the fact that General Dare himself comes to this conclusion in his letter. Apparently the text reads as follows:

Consequently, I believe that ... consequently the Security Service ...

That is his own conclusion from a directive issued by the cabinet, which, in my opinion, does not say that at all. And this is why the letter has been referred to the committee on security and intelligence to establish whether General Dare was drawing valid conclusions. However, I repeat that, in my opinion, his conclusions are not valid; that is why the matter was referred to a cabinet committee.

INQUIRY WHETHER INVESTIGATION MADE ON ALL MEMBERS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): A last supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

For greater clarification, according to the Prime Minister's reply, I understand that if it sees fit the RCMP will conduct an investigation about any person belonging to the Parti québécois, the Liberal Party, the Tory Party or any other party.