Inquiries of the Ministry

inquiry, he or any of his staff received any threat of any kind from any member of the press gallery that the matter would be made public unless that letter was written immediately? Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious question I am asking.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is a very serious question and a very impertinent question. I do not act on instructions from the press gallery in these matters.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to take lessons on impertinence from the Prime Minister.

Mr. McIlraith: You are an expert on that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask him this question. Having made this codex ministrensis—I suppose that is the proper Latin expression—available to the press, thus making it a public document, did the Prime Minister receive any letters from any of his ministers? It is no longer a question of ministerial confidentiality, the Prime Minister having made this extraordinary document available to the people of Canada.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I did not make the document available to the press, and the right hon. gentleman, who was once the head of a government, should know and I am sure does know that exchanges between ministers are not made public in the house unless they are tabled.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why then did the Prime Minister make this document available which cast aspersions on every member of his cabinet by the very fact that he sent it?

Mr. Pearson: This document cast no aspersions upon any member of the cabinet. It lays down a code of conduct and ethics which has been followed by members of the cabinet, a code of conduct and ethics that might well have been laid down by my right hon. friend when he was prime minister. One of the reasons for this exchange with my cabinet ministers was to warn them about the kind of innuendo and insinuation they might leave themselves open to if they were not extremely careful in these things.

An hon. Member: In other words, cover it up.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister whether he has

[Mr. Rhéaume.]

worked out any method by which the code of ethics can be made retroactive?

Mr. Pearson: Yes; Mr. Speaker, I think it should be made retroactive to 1867, and also to provincial governments.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister does not believe in innuendoes and smears I wonder would he like to be more specific because I for one—

Some hon. Members: Lay a charge.

Mr. Douglas: —would be very glad to see the Prime Minister make a definite statement and lay a charge.

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman made a definite statement. He asked me if this document could be made retroactive. I said yes, and to 1867, and to provincial governments. Surely that is a very reasonable reply.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask the Prime Minister, since it was sent to his cabinet, how does he feel this would be applicable to provincial governments? Surely it was sent to his cabinet because it was felt his cabinet needed it.

Mr. Pearson: I presume provincial ministers have the same sense of responsibility as federal ministers, even in the province of Saskatchewan.

POSSIBLE ACTION RESPECTING ONTARIO
SUPREME COURT JUDGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Some time ago the Minister of Justice promised to make a statement to the house on the position of Mr. Justice Landreville. He said, later, that he would postpone making that statement for reasons he did not explain. Is the minister now in a position to make the statement he undertook to give us?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): I am not now in a position to make a statement on the matter.

THEFTS FROM DORVAL AIRPORT—POLICE
INVESTIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice, and I have broken it down into several parts. Can the minister report to the house on the theft of $100,000