

been the subject of renewed controversy including criminal charges having been laid, litigation having been instituted alleging irregular union election activities and many other such allegations?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what allegation the hon. member supports. If he wants to make some allegation let him do it.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the Prime Minister's answer I should like to direct a further question to him. In view of the statement of the Minister of Labour last Wednesday that he returned the campaign funds donated to him by the SIU because he thought and I quote: "It might be misunderstood if I kept this particular contribution" and in view of the Prime Minister's statement last December 18 that "A minister has an obligation to seek advice of the Prime Minister on any matter concerning a conflict of interest in which he may be in doubt", and in view of the statement of the Minister of Labour last Wednesday that he had not sought such advice from the Prime Minister, would the Prime Minister indicate if he has asked for an explanation from the Minister of Labour as to why the minister felt there was sufficient doubt that he should return the contribution to the SIU but did not feel in sufficient doubt to consult the Prime Minister on whether there was in the Prime Minister's mind a possible conflict of interest?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, in this party campaign funds are received by various members of parliament and ministers. Some of them choose not to receive and accept funds, others do. I am surely not going to call to account every member of my party who refuses to accept funds from some particular group.

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### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In his reply to the Leader of the Official Opposition the Prime Minister asked for specific charges. In my question I should like to refer the Prime Minister to seven specific assault charges which have been laid against members of the SIU and ask if he learned of these specific charges and in particular, in light of a quote that is attributed to the Solicitor General of the province of Ontario that "sufficient evidence of assault and violence and intimidation" exists to justify a full public inquiry into SIU activity, I would ask if he does not feel that a public inquiry is required into this situation?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, surely the hon. member is talking of different types of charges than the Leader of the Opposition was in his question to me earlier in the House. He is talking about charges of violence. My understanding is that the Ontario police and the metropolitan police of Toronto are making

### Oral Questions

investigations into that to find if there is enough evidence to file an information and lay charges. I have had no report on that.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is only partly correct.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** If hon. members would just listen to the question. The question which I put last Wednesday and subsequent questions put by other members of my party on Thursday and Friday referred specifically to the charges of union violence which led Dr. Shulman originally to make his charge. It was to investigate that matter in particular, but by no means exclusively, that we were suggesting a public inquiry was necessary. The Prime Minister has indicated today that he understands that the provincial police and other law enforcement agencies of the province of Ontario are investigating these questions. The conclusion reached by the Solicitor General of the province is that the evidence they have warrants a public inquiry. In view of that judgment what is the Prime Minister's position?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, it is the same as that expressed by the House leader and the Acting Prime Minister some days ago, that the responsible police of the province and metropolitan area of Toronto are making inquiries into these specific charges: This is my understanding. We have not had a report from them, though I understand the Deputy Minister of Justice is writing to the Ontario government asking if there are any facts or material that should be known to us. I have had no request yet from the Ontario government to make any inquiry. I am trusting them and their police services to find the facts on this. I hope if they do find some that reveal a possibility of criminal action they will lay an information and do what their duty is to take this matter to the criminal courts. It is only if they report failure, that they are unable to do anything and feel very strongly that the only way to get at the facts would be by a public inquiry held by the federal government rather than them, that I would consider this matter.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. It is my understanding that such a formal request is now being prepared by the government of Ontario. I want to get it perfectly clear from the Prime Minister, in view of the fact that the SIU is a federally chartered union with headquarters in Montreal, and operating in more than one province, if he gets such a serious and formal request from the government of Ontario will he make a decision to have a public inquiry?

**An hon. Member:** He does not choose to answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the hon. member will know, as other hon. members do, that to ask any minister a question on what he will do if something happens in future is hypothetical and outside the scope of the question period.

**An hon. Member:** What he will do is duck.