

Administration of Justice

get information? Is it true also, as I was told a while ago, before coming into the house, that Miss Munsinger would have left Canada after being threatened?

I would like more details. The deeper we go into this case, the darker it gets. I would like the Prime Minister to tell us if he knows anything, if he is convinced or has had the confirmation that Miss Munsinger is still alive and can comply with the requests which the Conservatives have been making so vigorously since yesterday afternoon.

• (2:40 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) permit a question?

Mr. Caouette: Yes.

Mr. Fairweather: Does he not realize that if the usual course is followed we can expect to have Miss Munsinger on "This Hour Has Seven Days" next Sunday?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

An hon. Member: The Prime Minister might make a telephone call.

Mr. Fairweather: He has already phoned.

Mr. Lambert: The minister could go on "This Hour Has Seven Days" too.

Mr. Pearson: He has been on.

Mr. Lambert: He could go on again.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, last evening we heard the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Fleming) make a very moving appeal to the government in order to solve this particular situation and bring the facts to light. In so doing the only course open to the government is for the Minister of Justice to name names. In his appeal last night the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton placed his finger on one very important matter, that of the Minister of Justice speaking on behalf of the government.

Today very few of the Privy Councillors on the government benches have stood up in defence of the Minister of Justice. We had a very unacceptable defence from the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) similar to the defence he put up last week which eventually turned out to be unacceptable even to himself. The same will probably apply in this case and the chair will again be pulled from under the Minister of Justice. A defence was put up by the Minister of National Health and Welfare

(Mr. MacEachen). I was very sorry he saw fit to take part in the debate today. I thought he could better serve his country in Nova Scotia where he had promised to be.

We also heard the defence put up by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McIlraith). I would call your attention, sir, to the fact that he referred to the statements made in the press conference by the Minister of Justice, although he has not even taken it upon himself to acquire complete information from the Minister of Justice and find out whether the minister now wishes to deny the statements carried by the press. He also referred to it as a security matter. Here again he differs with the Minister of Justice who referred to it not as a security matter but possibly a security risk.

These defences which have been put up by the government have continued to weaken their case. We also heard a defence from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene). I might say that his remarks would allow me, if the precedent he set were followed, to go into the Banks and Doyle affairs and suggest that we could probably have an exchange of fugitives with the United States in which we would give them Doyle in exchange for Banks. I say this because the Minister of Agriculture in his wanderings dealt with many, many questions.

The Prime Minister in his defence referred to the character assassination of Privy Councillors and to the furniture deal. I placed the original question in respect of that matter on the order paper at the advice of the house authorities because I was told it was the type of question that could not be asked on the orders of the day. Following their advice the question was put on the order paper. The answer came in a very unusual way. We had the confessions of two ministers and later their resignations. The Prime Minister and members on that side of the house like to point the finger and talk about insinuations. There were no insinuations. There was a simple question on the order paper, and if these members were involved in any way it was because of their confessions and resignations. This backs up the fact that character assassination is not necessarily carried out on this side of the house but is carried out by hon. members opposite.

[Translation]

Hon. René Tremblay (Matapédia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.