

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure if that is the name of the committee that asked to meet me but I am meeting with a committee representing the Ukrainian Canadians on Monday when I will take the occasion to repeat to them what I said both on radio and in the House on the matter of the Ukraine.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. In view of the Prime Minister's cosy connection with Kosygin and the latter's forthcoming visit to Canada, will the Prime Minister intervene personally to request the liberation of these two intellectuals from unjustified imprisonment?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I did not intervene during my recent visit to the Soviet Union. I would have to hear a great deal more representations—perhaps that will happen Monday—from the official representatives of the Ukrainian Association of Canada before considering such representations.

\* \* \*

**HEALTH****HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CARE PROGRAMS—CONSIDERATION OF MORE FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF FEDERAL SUPPORT**

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Prime Minister. In light of the alarm of the minister of health services for Alberta over the current rigid federal-provincial shared-cost programs which doom to failure provincial medical plans, is the federal government considering another more flexible system of federal support for hospital and medical care programs?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will refer the question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare who had to leave the House to meet with his opposite number in the Ontario government.

\* \* \*

**POLLUTION****DEADLINE FOR CLOSING OF E. B. EDDY PLANT**

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of housing. Now that it appears the minister will be carrying the ball on the question of Eddy's, after three government ministers have already fumbled, can the minister say whether he is going to stick to the 1975 deadline?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, there never has been a 1975 deadline officially endorsed.

**Mr. Bell:** Will the minister say, deadline or not, whether he is going to close down Eddy's or just clean up the river?

[Mr. Paproski.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I would make no such statement at this time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have run out of time. I believe the hon. member for Red Deer is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to rise on a question of privilege in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs but in view of the statement the Prime Minister made during the question period and in view of the great concern of many Canadian people with regard to the security of this nation I must inform the Prime Minister that I have a letter in my hand dated March 12, 1971, over the signature of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which reads in part:

I would like to point out that as a member of the government—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hope the hon. member can indicate what his question of privilege is. I have pointed out to hon. members on a number of occasions that their suggested questions of privilege are rather far from being legitimate questions of privilege. The hon. member has the floor for one purpose at the present time and that is to indicate to the Chair that there is a question of privilege. I would hope he can indicate this as soon as possible.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is simply that I think the House deserves an explanation tomorrow because of the fact that the Prime Minister can hardly be expected to do so today, but I must quote one sentence from this letter in order to point out why I ask this. The key sentence in this letter is:

For this reason—

That is the allegations which have been made in regard to Mr. Gagnon.—a comprehensive report was drawn up for the use of cabinet only—

I hope you will understand that I cannot release this material, for the same reason that security checks on all people remain secret. It would be an invasion of privacy and against the principles of this government if we were to give out information on such reports.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether that is the one sentence to which the hon. member referred. The hon. member is reading the letter and making a speech. Again, this is not a question of privilege. I suggest to him that we will all be here tomorrow and if he wishes to pursue the matter he can ask questions to try to elucidate or clarify the apparently difficult situation to which he refers. But I do not think that that constitutes a question of privilege.

**Mr. Thompson:** My question of privilege relates to the fact that there was obviously misinformation given to the House today by the Prime Minister. I am only asking that he clarify this tomorrow, in the realization that he cannot be expected to give this type of information today in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. That is my question of privilege.