

Inquiries of the Ministry

should be doing something about the leaks. I will add, however, that I am distressed about the matter, and I have asked the Solicitor General to use whatever means he can to see whether any question of theft arises. If we can find the guilty party we will certainly want to punish him.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the considerable delay which has already occurred in the publishing of successive copies of this document, and in view of its importance in the light of the legislation before the house at present, can the Prime Minister and his government take any steps to accelerate the publication of these important documents?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, we are all anxiously awaiting the publication of this report. The leak concerns the third report and it seems to be a fairly clear infringement of the Copyright Act, in view of the fact that it seems to be a leak concerning a document which is nearly ready. The point is that it is only the commission which can decide at what point of preparation it will publish its report. Of course I have spoken to the co-chairmen of the commission and told them that it was our desire and that it was in the interests of the country to have the report as soon as possible. I conclude from the fact that the third volume has been leaked in this particular way that probably the second and third volumes are very close to publication.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I want simply to ask the Prime Minister whether it is the position of this government that the royal commission be left to take the decision whether any effort will be made to investigate and find the source of this problem.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I know the members of the commission are aware of this matter, because one of them has already made a public statement about it. I have discussed with the law officers of the crown, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General steps that we might contemplate. But once again, we cannot tell the commission what they should be doing; I am waiting for advice from them. If they feel that anything useful can be done then we will discuss with them any possible steps that might be taken.

For the information of hon. members, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should say that though this appears to be fairly clear infringement of

copyright in regard to property belonging to the crown, the steps that could be taken to redress the matter are not easily available in law in the sense that they might not be as effective as we might like. Perhaps the most effective solution would be to try to find whether there has been any theft, and if so to pursue the matter in that direction. I repeat that I have discussed any steps that should be taken with the Solicitor General.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I know I do not understand sophisticated language. What is the nature of the copyright in connection with a prospective report from a commission? I am just asking for information, Mr. Speaker, so we can understand exactly what it is the Prime Minister has in mind. If there has been any breach of copyright, then there is a law available to deal with it. Surely the Prime Minister is not suggesting that they are going to apply the sealing wax to people who submit their ideas about what is in a report.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I can see that the right hon. gentleman is not informed about what was published in *La Presse*. If he obtains a translation then perhaps he will see that this is not a matter of someone giving his idea about what is going on.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand that the right hon. gentleman wishes to raise a supplementary question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would remind the right hon. gentleman when speaking about language that I remember last February hearing the Prime Minister say in this house: "Nous avons perdu la confiance de la chambre". When the Prime Minister's words appeared in *Hansard* they were: "We have lost the vote". I knew sufficient French as I listened to him to know the difference.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether the point of order should be pursued further.

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that is after-wit, what we call in French "de l'esprit d'escalier".