

Canada in reference to this matter. We tried to find out on several occasions without success.

Mind you, it was on the 24th of this month that the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness), during orders of the day, referred to a speech made by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Favreau) respecting repatriation. That is a speech to which I intend to make some reference. It is a speech which obviously could not have been made by him without knowledge as to what Mr. Lesage was going to say or had said, for in every particular he offered as an excuse for not proceeding with that formula all of the arguments advanced by Mr. Lesage in his letter to the Prime Minister on January 20.

Let me suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the President of the Privy Council either had seen the letter the Prime Minister received from Mr. Lesage dated January 20 or he possesses a high degree of capacity for knowing what is in somebody else's mind, particularly when he said he had no communication with Mr. Lesage. We endeavoured to get some information.

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a pertinent question of privilege. To the extent that there might be an implication that I had any knowledge of any correspondence with Mr. Lesage when I spoke, or that I had any indication from any source to the effect mentioned, I must deny completely any such implication, and the right hon. gentleman must take my word for that.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. Diefenbaker: I said that either he had seen or had heard, or he possessed unusual powers of visualization as to what was in the mind of Mr. Lesage. As a matter of fact, when the President of the Privy Council speaks about denials in parliament, I remember the 23rd day of November, 1964, when the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) rose in the house and started to make those charges. He referred to the department of the minister of justice, and the minister of justice said, "It is an absolute lie." Then within a couple of hours he had to admit that what was being said by the hon. member for Yukon was in fact the truth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mind you, Mr. Speaker, what the hon. gentleman said in that great speech of his in Montreal bears a striking resemblance to the Lesage viewpoint in every

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particular—and I will refer to that—excepting this, that in order to give an explanation for the Lesage ultimatum he said, "We are not going ahead with this because we are opposed by some Tory, colonialist sentimental people". Surely he is not going to place Mr. Lesage in that category.

I shall read from his speech in a moment. In the meantime, however, I say that what has happened in this matter is another example of the arrogant and cavalier attitude of this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: They will not tell us anything unless they have to. We would not have heard about this if it had not been for Mr. Lesage today, in order to protect himself in his own legislature, rising there and revealing what parliament has not seen.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then with parliament sitting, the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), now with unusual speed, gave to the press gallery that which had not been placed before parliament. What was the rush? Mr. Lesage told everything today; he revealed the whole position. We do not know what happened in these secret meetings. We do not know what decisions have been arrived at. But we do know now, thanks to Mr. Lesage, in self-defence in the legislature of Quebec, what passed between him and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read some excerpts from that tremendously interesting speech to which I have referred, but I come back to this first. The President of the Privy Council, in a mean, even contemptible manner, blamed us for the course that the government of Canada was going to take in not proceeding with the formula.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): He is capable of anything.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He said we were sentimental colonialists, while at the same time—if he did not know, he should have known, because this matter is under his jurisdiction—on January 20, Mr. Lesage said "Nothing doing, as far as the formula is concerned. We are not going to go ahead with it at this time until"—well, I do not know how far in the assignable future.

I am not in any way criticizing the government of Quebec for the stand they took.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.