

Inquiries of the Ministry

Prime Minister or the government as to whether the question is in order, and whether it should be accepted.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): What I said was in reply to the Prime Minister's comment. If you will bear with me, my point of order is that where you have a capital investment in federal funds amounting to millions and hundreds of millions of dollars across Canada, and where you have civil disorder on a grand scale, there is certainly a federal concern on grounds of peace, order and good government, as set out in section 91 of the British North America Act. It is certainly a matter for this parliament to be concerned about when we are investing millions of dollars and there is organized and widespread disorder—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Even if the hon. member convinced the Chair that it is a matter for federal jurisdiction, this would not necessarily resolve the situation. It is still within the competence and responsibility of a member of the government not to answer a question. It seems to me if the hon. member is not satisfied with the answer given to his question, perhaps the best thing would be to give the Chair notice of his intention to debate the matter at ten o'clock. It could then be debated at that time.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): May I pose a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the right hon. Prime Minister? In view of all the destruction and unrest, would the Prime Minister consider the involvement of the federal government? Would he consider having the Minister of Justice join with the attorneys general of the provinces to discuss this serious problem now raging across Canada? We do not want to have to face what has happened in other countries.

Mr. Trudeau: Once again, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is a question for the Attorney General. If we were to find there had been some disturbances which were unlawful, we could not apply the law because the administration of justice is a responsibility of the provinces. The only retaliation we could make would be to cut grants which are directed to education, and this is the kind of step the Leader of the Opposition has suggested we should not take.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I agree with that.

[Mr. Speaker.]

VETERANS AFFAIRS**DISABILITY OF DIEPPE PRISONERS DUE TO IMPRISONMENT**

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia): I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Can he advise the house the results of his meeting yesterday with officers of the Dieppe Prisoners of War Association?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I did have a meeting yesterday with the association, Mr. Speaker, which was most informative. We agreed there seems to be good reasons for the medical officers of our department to review the files of as many Dieppe prisoners of war as possible to determine whether there is any particular pattern or type of disability common among this group of veterans which could be related to their imprisonment. The findings of this review should enable us to appraise whether or not it would be advisable to call in a certain cross-section of these prisoners of war to see—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member can give information on a matter of interest to all hon. members but he should not make a general statement unless he has the consent of the house to revert to motions.

Mr. Cullen: A supplementary question. I wonder if the Minister of Veterans Affairs would give consideration to treating the Dieppe Prisoners of War Association as a separate group, similar to the way in which Hong Kong veterans are treated?

Mr. Dubé: I do not know how much more information I am allowed to give, Mr. Speaker, but I do wish to state I will give these prisoners of war my most sympathetic attention.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I would ask the minister whether he or his department have just completed some contractual relations with public relations firms designed to upgrade the image of his department?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I would like to reply.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the minister would like to make his answer during the adjournment debate.