

*Morality in Government*

● (4:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps I am expected to give some brief comments on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Villeneuve. If my recollection is correct, I was not in the chair when the point of order in question was raised, but my understanding of the rule is that it is permissible on the part of members to read newspaper articles provided they vouch for the correctness of the reports.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I was going to read from a Canadian Press report and I do so accordingly as reported in the *Ottawa Journal* of April 29.

**Mr. Favreau:** Are you vouching for its accuracy?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I shall not attempt to do what the Prime Minister did and say I did not say what I was reported to have said by the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. I intend to read first what the press reported and then, as I have been pressed to do this, I will also put on the record what was actually said.

Commissioner McClellan said the meeting was attended by then Justice Minister Favreau—who lost that portfolio after the airing of the Rivard case—and he believed, by Gordon Robertson, cabinet secretary. He testified—

**Mr. Greene:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

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

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I believe you have ruled, if I understand correctly, that the evidence before the inquiry is not admissible in this debate and I suggest to Your Honour—

**An hon. Member:** It is too late.

**Mr. Greene:** I know we have been hearing the wolves over there howling for three years and it has not got them anywhere yet. I wonder whether we could have your ruling, Mr. Speaker, rather than the cackling of geese over there.

**Mr. Starr:** You are one of the geese, Joe.

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

**Mr. Greene:** I know that hon. gentlemen opposite are not too anxious to get the facts.

**An hon. Member:** Look who is talking.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that Your Honour has ruled that the

evidence at the inquiry is not the subject matter of this debate and is not admissible. The right hon. gentleman is now trying to do indirectly what he cannot do directly, namely, he is reading from a newspaper which purports to quote the evidence at the hearing. I submit that he cannot do indirectly what he cannot do directly because surely if the evidence is admissible at all we should have the evidence from the transcript first hand and not some newspaper report which purports to give the evidence. Your Honour has ruled that the evidence is not admissible and I submit with respect that the right hon. gentleman cannot do indirectly what Your Honour has ruled he cannot do directly.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, all I have to say in this connection is that the Prime Minister interpreted what Commissioner McClellan had said and what he must have meant when he said it. Now I am going to place on the record exactly what was said, and it will show that the Prime Minister distorted—

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I understand the right hon. Leader of the Opposition is now speaking on a point of order.

**Mr. Pearson:** The right hon. gentleman seems to have completed his contribution on the point. I wanted to point out that I did not quote from the evidence. I was sorely tempted to do so but I did not refer directly to the evidence, either the transcript which I have or the evidence as it was reported in the newspapers. As I said, I would have been out of order had I done so.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I recognize the hon. member for Cape Breton South on a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** I am just wondering what goes on in this house when the Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition on a point of order and yet the Prime Minister continues to talk.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Rap him down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I recognize the hon. member for Kamloops.