

*Statement by Prime Minister on Security*

in the intervening years, not because they have been often called upon, but because their very existence has caused departments and agencies of government to examine with much greater care those cases in which dismissal on security grounds might have seemed desirable, to have taken the subject into their confidence to a much greater degree than in the past, and on the whole to have been able to resolve such cases to the satisfaction of both employer and employee.

Nevertheless, the members of the Royal Commission on Security have recommended a broader, and somewhat more formal, system of review of cases involving not only possible dismissal on security grounds, but also transfers, denial of promotion, apparent inhibition of career prospects, refusal to admit sponsored or nominated immigrants to Canada, or the refusal of applicants for Canadian citizenship, all on security grounds. The advice of the board in any given case together with its recommendations or comments, would be given to the Governor in Council and the minister concerned. By implication, the final decision would remain with the Governor in Council or the minister concerned. A brief record of the board's "decision" would also be communicated to the individual concerned.

As I have said, the government is carefully considering the details of this proposal, not only in relation to the further safeguarding of the rights of individual Canadians, but also in the context of existing legislation which was intended to provide similar safeguards. It is also being considered in relation to one of the concepts most basic to our form of government, that of ministerial responsibility. When these studies have been completed, it is my intention to make quite clear to parliament and to the public the form of review procedures which will be adopted in line with the three principles set out by the commissioners, and taking into account the legislation which has been passed by this parliament to provide assurances of fair treatment for the individual members of our society.

The commissioners also proposed that the Security Review Board receive and consider annual or semi-annual reports from the head of the security service, and have authority to draw to the direct attention of the Prime Minister any matters it considers appropriate. The government does not find itself in agreement with this proposal.

On the subject of industrial security, the government has noted the suggestion of the commissioners that the function might be

[Mr. Trudeau.]

allocated to the Department of National Defence or, if that were considered impracticable, the Department of Defence Production—now the Department of Supply and Services—should continue to take steps to improve the performance of this important function. Many such steps have been taken in recent months, and it is the considered view of both departments concerned, and that of the government generally, that this task should continue to be the responsibility of the organization most directly affected, the Department of Supply and Services.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to indicate at this time what the government's response to the many other recommendations of the royal commission will be, except to say that they will all be closely and positively studied with a view to continuous improvement of our security methods and procedures. The views of hon. members and of the public generally on the report of the royal commission will be of great interest and assistance to us in arriving at sound and acceptable decisions in this difficult field. It is our intention to consult with the leaders of the opposition parties to determine how the report might best be made the subject of parliamentary debate during the next session.

In conclusion I should like to say that the royal commissioners have pointed up, and have helpfully recommended upon, a number of apparent inadequacies in our past and present security methods and procedures. I am reassured, as I am sure most Canadians will be, that they have not found any evidence that, since the revelations of 1945, Canada has been responsible for any serious loss of her own or allied security information. I trust that this report, and the fact of its publication in such detail, will be regarded as an earnest of our continued determination to grow as a strong and free country committed to democratic principles.

*[English]*

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in case you are nervous, I assure you I will not be as long as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) but I do want to thank him for a very full statement in connection with this report, for which we have all waited quite a long time. I want to thank him also for his courtesy in letting me have a copy of his statement and an abridged report in advance.