

Inquiries of the Ministry

responsibility of parliament in respect of bankruptcy and insolvency. Section 91 of the British North America Act exclusively commits this responsibility to parliament.

From the preliminary reports, this matter seems clearly one of insolvency. In my submission that lends weight to the arguments already advanced to Your Honour, and that is why, notwithstanding the words of the Minister of Public Works, this matter falls within the jurisdiction of parliament.

Mr. Speaker: I thank hon. members for their comments about the motion proposed by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. I draw hon. members' attention to citation 100 (1) in Beauchesne's Fourth Edition which says:

The definite matter of urgent public importance for the discussion of which a member may ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 must involve the administrative responsibility of the Government.

I doubt whether this matter comes directly under the administrative responsibility of the government. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands says that if it does not, it should. I believe this too is the argument proposed by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin). I do not think the suggestions bring the matter within the administrative responsibility of the government. I am impressed by the argument of the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), who reminds us that a supply motion is before us today.

Because of all this I feel I should not accept the motion at this time.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**BOWER FEATHERSTONE—PROSECUTION UNDER OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the charges against Bower Featherstone are not a matter to be discussed in parliament, I restrict myself to two questions arising out of the announcement made by the Solicitor General. Will he tell the house whether the country to which and on whose behalf the alleged wrongdoing was committed was the U.S.S.R.? What has been done by the government in directing the removal from this country of those who participated in the alleged wrongdoing? Also is the espionage that allegedly could take place along the Atlantic coast that espionage referred to by Admiral Landymore

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in his statement, and expurgated before delivery by him to the committee on defence?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can best answer the right hon. gentleman's question by reading the information which is public, since the person in question has now been charged. I now am reading from the information, which states as follows:

In the province of Ontario did, between the 13th day of February, 1966, and the 25th day of October, 1966, at said city, for a purpose prejudicial to the safety of the state, obtain documents, to wit: two copies of a chart classified as confidential relating to maritime defences and prepared for use in ships of the Royal Canadian Navy which chart might be directly or indirectly useful to a foreign power, namely the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, thereby committing an offence contrary to paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 3 of the Official Secrets Act.

I do not think I ought to enlarge upon my answer.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, surely we are entitled to know—and this in no way infringes the proposition that now is before the court—what happened to those connected with the U.S.S.R. embassy or otherwise, or what has been done in respect of them. Have they been ordered out of the country or are they still here, free to operate?

Mr. Pennell: In view of the wording of the charge, the matter raised by the right hon. gentleman no doubt may be before the court. Again with great reluctance I must take the position that I ought not to enlarge upon my answer.

LABOUR RELATIONS**PACIFIC COAST SHIPPING—STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour regarding the strike by local 514 of the Longshoremen's Union which has tied up shipping on the west coast. May I ask what steps are being taken by the minister or by his department to promote a settlement. I should like also to ask him whether he has made any representation to the B.C. Maritime Employers Association, asking them to accept the men's offer that they are prepared to go back to work if the employers will agree to negotiate.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad this question has been asked, because some explanation is