

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Until I have some knowledge of that complaint, surely, the hon. member would not blame me for taking the word of my minister that he has not attempted to influence anybody.

An hon. Member: We had his word.

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that even if the judge does not complain that in his opinion there was intervention, surely the statements by the Minister of Public Works yesterday and again today show there was intervention.

In view of the seriousness of this situation and the effect it will have on the people of Canada generally as well as their respect for this parliament and the judiciary, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if instead of having this cozy "All in the family" arrangement by which he and the Minister of Justice are going to discuss the matter with the Chief Justice of the province of Quebec and then decide what if anything they will do, does he not feel he would be in a better position, Mr. Justice Mackay would be in a better position and the judiciary generally would be in a better position if he agreed to a public investigation? That way the public would not only know that justice has been done but it would be very clear to the public that it has indeed been done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add. I just see something objectionable in the hon. member's suggestion of a cozy arrangement with the Chief Justice of the Superior Court.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I assume that the Chief Justice of the Superior Court will not be influenced or indeed annoyed by the opinion of the hon. member opposite.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A brief supplementary, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister if he would not consider that a report being made by the Chief Justice of Quebec to the Minister of Justice and the latter reporting to the Prime Minister without any commitment from the government at this time that the report of the Chief Justice would be made public—how can one consider that to be anything but a cozy arrangement?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid the hon. member did not hear the answer I gave a few minutes ago. As far as the government is concerned, we would welcome the Chief Justice making his report public. I am just indicating, because of the separation of powers which is held so highly on the other side, that I would not order him to do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

HEALTH TESTS FOR PILOTS—REPORTING OF NEAR ACCIDENTS
BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

In view of the importance of ensuring airspace safety in Canada and the doubts raised in the public mind as a result of the statements made by groups and organizations involved in air transport, can the Minister of Transport tell the House whether the rules of his department require commercial pilots to submit to the breathalyzer test before flying, whether it is mandatory for pilots and air controllers to report to the department all near accidents which may occur, and whether his department publishes the results of its inquiries and the causes of the near accidents?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there are rules on the subject of the physical condition of pilots and their consumption of alcohol and drugs. It has not been necessary to follow these rules with any express advance testing. We have no reason to believe there is any interference with the application of these rules. In the case of accidents, there is a requirement for reports but it is certainly not easy to identify specific accidents by cause.

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HEALTH

ALLEGATION MINISTER ASKED DR. CONNOLLY TO WITHDRAW
CHARGE AGAINST WHITEHORSE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, when a person rises to ask a question my hon. friends opposite act as though they were about to say "Viva Cuba".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It has to do with the recent case in the Yukon where a charge was laid by Dr. Connolly of the Department of National Health and Welfare against the municipality of Whitehorse for permitting raw sewage to be dumped into the Yukon river. This was one of the minister's own officials. Did the minister ask Dr. Connolly to withdraw that charge and when he refused to do so did the minister have one of his most senior officials get in touch with Dr. Connolly and advise him that the minister had asked him to inform the doctor that unless he carried out his direction he would be dismissed?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, I have given no such instructions. However, I have heard of the matter, but I should