

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****STEVEN TRUSCOTT—CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING OF PAROLE**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General I direct my question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the decision reached by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Truscott case which finalizes the legal proceedings and in my view denies any further consideration by parliament in any way.

However, there still remains the question of parole. Is the Prime Minister in a position to say whether the parole board is now examining this question, and when we may expect a decision? I ask this within the general purview of the usual course of the Queen's mercy being granted during celebration years, and particularly in this centennial year. Is the government giving consideration to a general examination of the records of those now in penal institutions with a view to having their sentences reduced and releases granted?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman has asked me two questions. The first refers specifically to a case which was submitted by the government to the Supreme Court of Canada. That court was asked to answer certain questions. The court has done that, and I have nothing to say in respect of that particular report from the Supreme Court.

In respect of the larger question of commutation during centennial year, I should not like to say anything at this moment. I will be glad to discuss the matter with the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General. It has a wider connotation than the particular case under consideration.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister say whether there has been discussion with the members of the parole board as to the release on parole of Steven Truscott?

Mr. Pearson: I cannot answer that question as to whether or not there has been any discussion with the parole board. Certainly this has not been discussed by me, and in order to answer I would have to check with the ministers directly concerned. It must be understood by the house that it is a very

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

delicate matter for the government to intervene with the parole board in respect of the commutation of sentence.

Mr. Diefenbaker: So there will be no misunderstanding, Mr. Speaker, let me say that there is no suggestion of intervention but rather a simple question in respect of what information the government can provide.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the government will consider discussing with the parole board the possibility of acting in this case under section 8 of the Parole Act?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look into that particular possibility.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government will consider referring those aspects arising in the Truscott case which were not before the Supreme Court of Canada to the committee on justice and legal affairs.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would not like to deal with that particular matter at this moment during orders of the day.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**GREECE—INQUIRY AS TO MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, asking him whether the government of Canada is continuing diplomatic relations with the new régime in Greece, and whether he has anything to report as to the relationship between the government of Canada and the new régime.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I may have something to say in greater detail later in the week. At this time there has been no change in the position of the head of state of Greece and consequently Canada as well as certain other friendly governments continue to have diplomatic relations with that government.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question. Have any representations been made to