

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; the right hon. gentleman is asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I say he is the last person who should speak about the mounted police after the manner in which—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Crouse: Howl him down over there; you always did howl him down.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —the manner in which, in connection with the investigation now going on, he has placed the mounted police in an invidious position dangerous to the greatness of that force.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Justice. Can he tell this house if, when he escaped, Rivard was still considered as one of the important organizers of the Liberal party on the island of Montreal?

[*Later:*]

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

I should like to ask him whether there is any truth to the rumour that Lucien Rivard, like another ex-prisoner, the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), left Bordeaux because the guards were not bilingual?

Mr. Robert Beaulé (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Labour a question—

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Justice a supplementary question.

Did he leave unanswered the question put to him by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) because he felt it was so stupid it did not deserve an answer?

Mr. Choquette: Is it because the hon. member for Lapointe is stupid that the Minister of Justice did not give him an answer?

[*Text*]

[*Later:*]

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Earlier, when he was asked about the possibility of offering a reward for the recapture of Mr. Rivard, he said it would be

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

taken into consideration after the normal period had elapsed between escape and rearrest. I was wondering whether the minister would inform the house what is the length of the normal period.

Mr. Knowles: Sixty days.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, that, of course, is something to consider in the light of the efforts that the police authorities will have made in the circumstances.

[*Text*]

[*Later:*]

Mr. R. A. Webb (Hastings-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice and ask if he would advise the house whether Mr. Rivard broke out of Bordeaux jail, or did he opt out?

QUEBEC—PROSECUTION FOR POSSESSION OF FORGED BANK NOTES

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Clément Vincent (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Has the minister been informed today or yesterday of the ruling of the Quebec court of appeal concerning the case of Jimmy Lévesque who was arrested in the United States while he had 23 bogus \$20 bills on his person and in whose house, in Drummondville, 81 bogus \$20 bills were seized?

If that ruling has been brought to his attention, could the minister answer the questions which the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) and myself asked him yesterday?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I checked the file when I got back to my office yesterday afternoon, and I found that the copy of the ruling of the court of appeal had reached the officers of the department that very morning.

This is a case where the accused was granted by the judge of the first court a suspended sentence, that is, a remission for all practical purposes. The Department of Justice appealed from the sentence, and I can see that the court of appeal admitted the proceedings taken by the department and that the accused was condemned to a prison term of six months.

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?