

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Allmand:** The justice of the peace. With respect to the earlier question, the government did not say that the RCMP should have laid charges in Quebec. In that particular situation the RCMP had the choice of having the case taken in Ontario or Quebec, but we felt that there was a need for further guidelines to the police in a general sense and not in an individual sense.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Basford:** In the question the right hon. member for Prince Albert mentioned both the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice, so I should like to answer that part of the question which referred to the Minister of Justice, namely—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, this should be done on motions.

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

● (1440)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Surely, I can at least hear the preamble.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The question has been answered.

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, the law is perfectly clear. Under section 11 of the Official Secrets Act a Justice of the Peace may issue a warrant on the information that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence under the act has been committed or, where there is an emergency situation a similar warrant may be issued by an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—

**An hon. Member:** Who issued this one?

**Mr. Basford:** —not below the rank of superintendent. In this case no such warrant, no such action, is required by the Attorney General of Canada. No action was taken by the Attorney General of Canada.

**An hon. Member:** Who issued the warrant?

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PRIVY  
COUNCILLORS INVESTIGATE LEAK OF LETTER TO TORONTO  
"SUN"

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. This being a very serious matter and one that strikes at the fundamental foundation of freedom, namely freedom of the press—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** This government, through its Prime Minister has spoken in a most caustic, libellous manner of the Toronto *Sun* and its publishers and of course, there is no action for anything spoken in the House. The Prime Minister said that the letter in question was not fully understood, that the officer in charge of security apparently did not understand. Everybody excuses the government and the government excuses itself. As security must be

[Mr. Allmand.]

kept from public notice so that this will be cleared up, would the minister give consideration to having the Prime Minister and the officer in charge of security place their views before a committee of the House composed of members of the Privy Council—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, these hon. gentlemen have never heard of that place! I ask him that because this is too serious to be brushed aside in the manner in which the government is endeavouring to do. If this is done, members of the opposition who are members of the Privy Council, and who are sworn to secrecy, will find out where the Ethiopian is through the explanations that the government gives.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult to take the comments of the right hon. gentleman seriously.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark:** You have made that mistake before.

**Mr. Sharp:** The Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General have all said they had no knowledge of this affair.

**An hon. Member:** That is why we want an inquiry.

**Mr. Sharp:** The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert pays no attention to what anyone says. He accused the Prime Minister of being a liar. I want him to repeat that to his face when he appears here.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Paproski:** I can't believe my ears.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** No matter how far he departs from the truth, I would not go that far.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUANCE OF WARRANTS TO SEARCH  
OFFICES OF TORONTO "SUN"

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Justice. I am not at all clear from what he said whether the warrant was issued by a Justice of the Peace, which has to be done on information on oath, or whether it was issued under section 11(2) of the Official Secrets Act by some official of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. If the minister does not know the answer, would he try to find out and tell the House who did it, who was responsible for it and, furthermore, will he make sure that this House sees either the written order of the official of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the information on oath upon which this action took place?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** On motions.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to find out this information but this is a