

Inquiries of the Ministry

opinions about these reports once they had received them?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I fail to get the point of the question.

Mr. Baldwin: I will put it more simply, Mr. Speaker. Will the Prime Minister confirm that as a matter of government practice he has authorized ministers of the crown to express their personal opinions in respect of policies being formulated?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I think this government encourages ministers and members of its caucus to express opinions in as wide an area as possible. The only prudent thing for a minister or for a member of parliament—especially for a minister—to do is to make sure he does not place himself in an irrevocable position which might be contrary to that which the government might eventually take.

Mr. Baldwin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Prime Minister confirm that ministers will be free to do this in the House of Commons as well as outside it, and in general debates during which future policies are being formulated?

Mr. Trudeau: I suggest the hon. member should listen to more of our ministerial speeches in the house, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt very much that this type of question can be asked at this time. This is certainly changing into a debate or even an argument between the hon. member and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I have one more supplementary question which I think is essential on this matter, and I would like leave to put it. Has the Prime Minister not considered the very serious problems this would pose, having in mind how difficult it is to find out what is government policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is precisely what I had in mind. The original question and the supplementary questions have turned into debate and argument, and should not be asked at this time.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

NATIONAL SECURITY

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On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question is directed to the Solicitor General. I am glad he is here, but we always knew where he was. In view of the large influx of good representatives, properly interspersed with revolutionaries, who are en route to Montreal or already there, I should like to ask the minister if he is now in a position to answer the question I asked him on October 28. At that time I was referring to Rubin and other revolutionaries of the kind who advocate bloody revolution in Canada. Everybody knows they are endeavouring to foment revolution—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the right hon. gentleman kindly ask his question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to identify what the question was. As long as the minister has it before him I ask him now, in view of the statement that he would take the matter as notice and secure information thereon, whether he is now able to tell us what is the attitude of the government toward putting out the welcome mat for those who are coming into this country to advocate open revolution.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): The question referred to appears at page 2084 of *Hansard*. It occupies rather more than a column of *Hansard*, and I feel I should read to the house what I said on that occasion:

Mr. Speaker, I should be very glad to take the question as notice, because as it is posed it is really a statement giving a lot of information certain parts of which I did not have before. I will be glad to look at the whole form of the question and bring forward an answer on the part of it which relates to this department.

I did that very carefully and thoroughly, and no part of the question relates to this department.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That, Mr. Speaker, is not an unexpected answer because that government does not know what its responsibilities are.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would then direct the question to the Prime Minister who, with the all-seeing eye, will be able to give an answer.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter for the Minister