

Inquiries of the Ministry

from the U.S.S.R., I should like to direct the question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister explain how, out of 268 barrels of refined cobalt stockpiled at a Federal warehouse at Deloro since 1959, 245 have been emptied of their cobalt contents and filled with sand? It is interesting to note that the total amount of cobalt involved is in excess of 150 tons. Each of the barrels contained some 1,200 pounds of cobalt with a minimum value of \$650,000, and the theft was first noticed when some Federal workers noticed the barrels produced a hollow, drum-like sound when banged. They were opened and found to be empty.

The second question is, when was this amount of strategic material lost? Does the Prime Minister not regard this as still further evidence not only of espionage but of subversive activities being much more widespread than the public or even the Government itself is yet aware?

Mr. Pearson: I shall be glad to discuss this matter with the Minister of Industry and perhaps a statement can be made tomorrow or the next day. I should like to look into the matter in the terms in which the question has been put.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I had a question along the same lines and on the same subject, Mr. Speaker. While the Prime Minister is preparing an answer to that question, could he determine when the last check or last stocktaking was made by Government officials?

Mr. Pearson: That would certainly be an important part of the examination.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): My question is not a very serious one, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Prime Minister said he was prepared to table or have made an appendix to *Hansard* the press release concerning subversive activities. No action appears to have been taken as yet. I now ask that that press release be made an appendix to today's *Hansard* and I ask you, sir, to ascertain the will of the House in that connection.

Mr. Pearson: I would be glad to do that if it is the desire of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House give consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: For text of press release referred to, see appendix.*]

22620—75½

[*Later:*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister answered several questions that were asked with regard to the espionage ring, if one can use that expression. However, I asked the Prime Minister whether the civil servant who ultimately co-operated or who co-operated had received any payment from the Russian agents before reporting to the Canadian security squad or those charged with responsibility. What was the amount of that first payment he received; because there is a reference to thousands of dollars. What was the amount of that payment? How long did he retain that before his conscience caused him to go to the police officers and reveal these facts? This is a very important thing in determining this man's position.

Mr. Pearson: I am not in a position, Mr. Speaker, to tell my hon. friend the date on which he began to receive funds from the Soviet authorities. It is clear that when he was confronted by the police at the beginning of last week he had been receiving such funds. I am not in a position to give more of the details regarding the amount and the time over which these funds were being received. I will look into it.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): May I ask a supplementary question. I should like to ask the Prime Minister in reference to the civil servant whom he has described as gravely ill and who co-operated with the Russians, was this grave illness a natural illness or was it self imposed in any way?

Mr. Pearson: It is a natural illness which would not require to be mentioned in a statement of this kind except that it has a bearing on the investigation which the police are conducting with him and their ability to press him as hard as they might otherwise wish to do in regard to certain information. It is a natural illness.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

QUEBEC—LEGALITY OF RAIN MAKING OPERATIONS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice concerning also the subversive activities going on in Canada. I have actually asked this question many times already and the Minister was to give me an answer.

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