Human Rights

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions or the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the notices of motions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

when the gap was noticed.

Question No. 1,086-Mr. Cossitt:

1. Were the so-called Taschereau papers on national security taken from the National Archives to the Privy Council office—Prime Minister's office and, if so (a) on what date (b) under whose authorization (c) for what reason?

December 31, 1945. (b) The literary executors discovered the gap when they gathered the diaries after Mr. King's death in

1950, and they notified the Public Archives at the time. (c)

Not to our knowledge. (d) Extensive searches were made by

the literary executors and the staff of the Public Archives

TASCHEREAU PAPERS

- 2. Are the Taschereau papers in the possession of the PCO-PMO and (a) if so, for what reason (b) if not, where are they?
- 3. With reference to the answer by the President of Privy Council to a question by the hon. member for Leeds on November 29, 1977, page 1355 of *Hansard*, to the effect that he would take the question as notice and answer it as soon as possible, what are all the reasons that he has not followed up with any further statement on the matter?
- 4. Will the President of Privy Council or the Prime Minister make known immediately when a decision will be made as to whether or not the Taschereau papers will be made public and, if not, for what reason?
 - 5. If the papers are to be made public, on what date will this occur?
- 6. Is it the government's intention to permit the documents to become public as is permitted by law after thirty years in the National Archives and, if not, for what reason?
- Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): In so far as the Prime Minister's and Privy Council offices are concerned: 1. Yes, to the Privy Council office: (a) January 21, 1976; (b) secretary to the cabinet; (c) routine review of 30 year-old records (see *Hansard* of May 1, 1969, pages 8199 and 8200).
 - 2. (a) No; (b) returned to Public Archives.
 - 3. This answer fulfils that commitment.
- 4. Public access to the transcripts of in-camera hearings is not authorized. The release of these papers may violate the right of privacy of many persons who testified before the commission and who are still alive (see reference to *Hansard* in 1(c) above).
 - 5. The papers will be reviewed in 1986.
 - 6. See 4 above.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

- **Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, we would like to have a copy of the questions.
- **Mr. Young:** Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy to provide the hon. member with a copy of the answers if he wishes to look at them.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY SOVIET UNION

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition) moved:

That this House deeply regrets the inadequate response of the government to the persistent violation of international human rights, and in particular the violation by the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc of the Helsinki Accords.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to initiate this debate on a subject of very real and direct concern to the people of Canada. I am sure, even though this is a short sitting day in the House of Commons, that my motion will draw an active response from members on all sides of the House.

I am particularly honoured and pleased that this motion has been seconded by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker).

Some hon, Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: I think that no member of this House, and indeed no citizen of this country, has been more steadfast in his dedication to the cause of human rights in this country and throughout the world. That dedication was recognized last month by the extraordinary award of an honorary degree by the Ukrainian Free University in Munich to the right hon. member for Prince Albert, and it is symbolized further by the Canadian Bill of Rights which that member brought to parliament as Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: It is well for us to start the debate on human rights in Canada with reference fo the Canadian Bill of Rights. One of the basic principles enunciated in that bill is as follows:

Men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law.

That is a statement of principle for Canada in a bill that applies to Canada. Our first responsibility as legislators in this country is to strive to ensure its respect and application in our own country. Indeed, the degree to which we succeed in this