

Inquiries of the Ministry

time to time beginning on October 29. The documents have come in as I have described over a period of weeks and as late as yesterday. I am sure the right hon. gentleman does not want me to comment on the evidence. An Attorney General has never commented on evidence. He decides whether to prosecute or not to prosecute. In this particular instance the decision on whether a prosecution should be taken properly lies with the Montreal authorities or with the Attorney General of Quebec. The right hon. gentleman is talking about subversion, sedition and this sort of thing, and quite properly so. I have searched the records and at no time since Confederation has a prosecution for sedition been taken by the federal Attorney General. Sedition is a crime under the Criminal Code of Canada and in this, as in all other matters, prosecutions taken under the Criminal Code are taken by the provincial Attorneys General.

The only two cases I could find in the last 30 years relating to sedition were both taken against the Jehovah's Witnesses by the Attorney General of Quebec. The only cases of sedition currently before the courts, the one against Michel Chartrand, the one against Pierre Valiere and the one that was dismissed against Charles Gagnon, were also taken by the Attorney General of Quebec. That is where the responsibility lies.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should like to suggest to hon. members that we should not get into the realm of debate. However, I understand the right hon. gentleman has a supplementary, after which we will return to the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I am naturally interested in the dissertation, but I now ask the minister this question. On the basis of what he saw did he give any instructions to the RCMP or did he discuss with the Secretary of State the presence of anything in the nature of revolutionary wrong-doing or conduct unbecoming an organization financed by the people of Canada?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Well, Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman knows as well as I do that any advice I would give to the Prime Minister or to my colleague the Secretary of State would be as privileged as any other advice a lawyer would give to a client, and I would not reveal it on the floor of the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):**]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: What a smokescreen!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have clearly entered into the area of debate. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for York South.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM ATROCITIES—SUGGESTED INQUIRY BY ICC OR UN MISSION**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a pretty strong voice but I did not feel like using it to overcome the noise that was surrounding me. I hesitate to ask a question which does not have to do with Montreal or Quebec but I will none the less. Has the Prime Minister had an opportunity to discuss with the Secretary of State for External Affairs the question I asked last Tuesday. I understand that the minister is, regrettably, in hospital with an illness. Has the Prime Minister had a chance to discuss with him the question I asked the Prime Minister concerning the atrocities in Viet Nam?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did ask the department to inquire into the aspect of the question asked by the hon. member concerning the ICC. I have not yet had an answer. As the hon. member just said, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is ill at this time and that may be the reason he has not yet reported to me. When I have the answer I will be glad to give it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister keep in mind the second question I asked which may be even more important, that is, would the Prime Minister instruct our permanent representative at the United Nations to discuss with the Secretary General of that body the dispatch of a mission to Viet Nam to investigate these atrocities, some of which are being revealed even today?

Mr. Trudeau: If that appears necessary as a result of the answer to my first inquiry I will certainly discuss that with the minister.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Could he indicate whether he shares with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce the view that unilingual people are