

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

when we are closer to the expiry date of the winter house building program.

**Mr. Harkness:** As the expiry date is approximately just a month away, how soon can the people who are very concerned about this matter expect an announcement on the part of the government?

**Mr. MacEachen:** It would be in time to have the effect desired by the hon. member.

ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS LEAVING  
ARMED FORCES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the considerable numbers who are now leaving the armed forces, voluntarily and otherwise, and in view of the fact many of these men who entered the army immediately after leaving school are now in the age bracket from 25 to 30 and have had no other experience except military service, is the minister issuing instructions or is special consideration being given to aiding these veterans in adjusting into society?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** Because of the importance of the question and because of the fact that the hon. member does not ask too many questions, I should like to take this question as notice and give him a considered answer later.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

KNOWLEDGE OF ALLEGED WRONGDOING BY  
FORMER MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice and ask whether he approved of the laying of the charges against the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville. Will he tell the house when he first had information regarding this alleged wrongdoing from the premier or the attorney general of Quebec, and when did he first tell the Prime Minister about this alleged wrongdoing? I tried to get information on that subject the other day and the Prime Minister said he would look into the matter. I now ask the Minister of Justice, he being here, to give the house this information.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), who was a practising lawyer in his province for sev-  
[Mr. MacEachen.]

eral years and who moreover is an expert in constitutional law, knows as well as I do that the decision with regard to complaints in that matter was and remains that of the attorney general of the province of Quebec.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** When did the Minister of Justice first get a complaint from the premier or from the attorney general of Quebec regarding this wrongdoing, giving him the facts; and when did he tell the Prime Minister? Did he hide this from the Prime Minister? Is that what he means? I ask an answer from the minister, because the other day he spoke of the purity in his administration, and I want to find out the facts.

**An hon. Member:** Unlike yours.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am speaking about purity. Did the hon. lady say anything?

[*Later:*]

I again rise and ask the Minister of Justice when he first became aware of the facts in connection with this matter from the government of Quebec. Did he let the Prime Minister know immediately, or how long did he delay before he let him know? Does the minister not intend to answer?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, even if the Leader of the Opposition does not share that opinion, personally I feel that, as Minister of Justice, I must have a minimum of respect for the courts, complaints, even charges...

[*Text*]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Minimum. Exactly; minimum respect.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Favreau:** He himself feels that I must not have a minimum of respect, that is what I mean, Mr. Speaker. The complaints have now been brought before the court and I must abstain from any comment, whatever the insinuations that might be contained in the question just asked.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I say there are no insinuations. I am asking, when did the minister tell the Prime Minister; or did he hide this from him, too?

**An hon. Member:** Oh, no insinuations.