

since he also saw fit to mention me as perhaps being guilty of some form of contempt.

Mr. Fairweather: And how did the consultation go?

Mr. Trudeau: I listened to their version and feel that their explanations indicated clearly that they were not attempting to influence in any way the judgment of the courts. I have said that if the courts feel otherwise it is up to them to pass this information on to the Minister of Justice, as was requested by the Minister of Justice of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec. Until we hear definitely that the courts feel aggrieved, I take the word of my ministers.

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—
REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF REPORT OF JUDGE
DESCHÊNES

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister continues to refuse to make available to parliament information on the basis of which parliament can come to a conclusion as to the propriety of the ministers' actions. Without for a moment accepting the evasions in this House regarding those conversations, and understanding the very limited scope of the inquiry of Chief Justice Deschênes into the legal aspects of the case, may I ask the Prime Minister some specific questions about the publication of the report to be made by Chief Justice Deschênes. First, does the government agree to the full publication of that report?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With all due respect, I must remind the Leader of the Opposition that he is asking his third supplementary question and a series of questions now put would seem to presume on the privileges of the House. I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition might put one question.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Prime Minister to tell the House if the government will agree to the full publication of the report to be made by Justice Deschênes; also, is the government now actively seeking the agreement of Mr. Justice Deschênes for the release of that report in full, immediately it is received by the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I would not agree to that. The Minister of Justice made clear what the procedure would be. He was writing to the Chief Justice of the Superior Court, to ask the chief justice to communicate to the Minister of Justice any information he might possess on this case which is so disturbing the opposition.

Mr. Muir: Where are your purple robes?

Mr. Trudeau: If the Chief Justice feels that he has something to communicate to the Minister of Justice, we would not, as I made clear in the House the other day, object to that. On the contrary, if he wants to make it public, it will be up to him to decide. It will not be up to us to tell the Chief Justice how he should act.

Mr. Clark: But will you request that?

Oral Questions

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REVEAL CONTENT OF
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MINISTERS AND JUDGES

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Last Friday, according to *Hansard*, the Minister of Justice said that he was sure members of the government and ministers would submit to interviews with the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Quebec. On the other hand yesterday the Prime Minister seemed to agree with me, seemed to agree that Chief Justice Deschênes would not normally be called on to look into conversations between members of Cabinet. Can the Minister of Justice indicate what he intends to do now, as Attorney General of Canada and chief legal adviser to the government, to remove this ambiguity; or, will he institute some sort of independent inquiry so that the House may know the contents of any conversations which any ministers of the Crown had with judges relating to the intentions and motives of any ministers of the Crown?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member is not intentionally paraphrasing me erroneously. I indicated last Friday that if the Chief Justice of the Superior Court wanted to talk to ministers on this matter, I was sure they would co-operate. There was no conflict between my answer of Friday and the Prime Minister's answer of yesterday. As to the latter part of the question, I have already indicated my position. As Minister of Justice, I do not intend to make further recommendations to the government at present until I have had the opportunity to hear from the Chief Justice of the Superior Court any matters he thinks it is appropriate to bring to my attention.

● (1420)

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the minister for his answer. I do not wish to argue with him, but I maintain that there appears to be on the record some sort of ambiguity as matters stand now. Apparently neither the chief justice nor this House may have access to conversations between his cabinet colleagues. Would the Minister of Justice give this House some explanation. Is he prepared to provide any kind of documentation for example that these conversations were about normal government business and not the private and political interests of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Mr. Basford: Well, Mr. Speaker, private communications between ministers are confidential. I see no ambiguity whatsoever on the record.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

ABILITY OF BOARD TO MONITOR PROFIT AND PRICING
POLICIES OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. This question is about justice—economic justice. Over the past year various officials of National Revenue, including the minister, have admitted to the public that this country loses hundreds of millions of dollars because