

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Which leader?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, is there anything that can be done to silence these prospective parliamentary secretaries?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have the book here and I ask the Prime Minister this question. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister says that what is written has received the imprimatur of his approval, I ask him whether these quotations that I shall place before him, giving him the pages, do not in fact represent a complete contradiction of cabinet solidarity? The first is from page 127; and my translation reads;

Personally I am not convinced that serious troubles would have occurred automatically if exceptional measures had not been taken.

That is quotation No. 1. Number 2 comes from page 93:

For the reasons I have expressed in the preceding chapter surely it was not a popular insurrection that the federal and provincial governments were afraid of?

Then a little later —

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the right hon. gentleman, but I was hoping that he would not read too much of the book. The right hon. gentleman has given two quotations. As we all know, even that is somewhat irregular, but in any event the right hon. gentleman has indicated the basis of his argument.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not yet.

Mr. Speaker: I hope the right hon. gentleman will not quote too much of the book.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister issued a challenge, and I, as a member of this House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—am entitled to answer him—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—by asking him whether or not he approves of what is written.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the point made by the right hon. gentleman. I am just suggesting that there has to be a limitation somewhere. However, for the moment the hon. member for Ontario is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, perhaps this commercial for the sale of the minister's book has proceeded far enough and it is time we got back to the main feature of the hour, the questioning of the government on matters of national interest.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is perhaps not a point of order. I think we might allow the right hon. gentleman to ask his question. He was placing the foundation of his

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

question before the Chair and the House. I assume this has now been done and that we will hear the question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I would not begin to give all the quotations I have because the book contains one of the biggest messes that I have ever read. I quote one more excerpt because the Prime Minister said he approved of the book. At page 59, I find this:

In the first place, it seems to me important to recognize that the FLQ never tried to seize power in Quebec on the occasion of the October crisis.

I doubt that its members, even the most visionary, have ever had this intention in the course of the eight years of existence of their movement.

Does the Prime Minister accept those views as representing the type of views that he placed before the country on behalf of the government last October, that insurrection was here and they had to act?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, of course that is not a position the government ever placed before the House—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Cabinet solidarity has been broken.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. Prime Minister has the floor.

Mr. Trudeau: Let them write books, Mr. Speaker. Had I been allowed to finish my phrase I would have corrected the hon. member and said that it was never the position of this government that there was an insurrection and we had to act. If the hon. member would refer to the law and our text he would see that it was apprehended insurrection which was the basis of our action.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Hon. members say "oh, oh", but surely there is a difference between insurrection and apprehended insurrection.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: As regards the quotations which were brought before the House by the right hon. member, perhaps he would allow me in reply to quote another well known author, Mr. Voltaire, who said—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is he a member of this House too?

Mr. Trudeau: No.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it is easy to see that biculturalism has a long road to march if the hon. member does not know who Mr. Voltaire is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: He said, Mr. Speaker—