

Inquiries of the Ministry

provinces, and it will be my hope to have consultations with these governments in an effort to find a solution.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Selkirk has a supplementary to the previous question.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**SECRECY OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS—REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE STUDY**

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he has given consideration to creating, at the next session of Parliament, a parliamentary committee of inquiry into the whole question of the secrecy of government documents, modelled on the committee which was established to look into statutory instruments and which produced such good results.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether such a committee of inquiry will be necessary. The principles involved are very simple. Some operations must be conducted in secret if the government is to receive the best possible advice. This is inevitable. There are other subjects which can be made known to the public. As I was saying to the hon. member for Greenwood, there are some memoranda, when they have passed cabinet and been approved, which could very well be made known to the Canadian public, the publication of which would be in their interest as well as the interest of the government.

But what is lacking in the government is not a desire to make a lot of this material public, it is the time required and the ministerial time required to go through this very voluminous material and decide what should be made public and when. I am very hopeful the day will come when Information Canada will be publishing a lot of the very good work which is going on in the government.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS OR PAROLE BOARD**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General, who has always had a good attendance record, and not just lately. May I ask the minister, in connection with the apparent departure of the convicted murderer Yves Geoffroy, who was released from St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary to get married, if the minister or his officials or the National Parole Board have had any consultations on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the question. It is I believe the same question as one asked yesterday by the hon. member for Joliette, although I might say the name sounded a bit different when mentioned by the hon. member for Joliette. The question will be allowed, and if the hon. member for Joliette has a supplementary he may ask it later.

[Mr. Lang.]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Geoffroy's wedding was authorized according to regulations of the Penitentiary Service, after consultations with prison authorities, social workers and the institution's chaplain who recommended that permission be granted.

[English]

Mr. Bell: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if he was aware that the best man at the wedding was Raymond Denis, an old friend of the government?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: No, I was not at all, Mr. Speaker, and I do not believe any conclusions can be drawn therefrom.

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[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF BARBER COMMISSION—POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might direct a question to the Prime Minister. With regard to the commission of inquiry headed by Dr. Barber relating to Indian lands, monies and the like, may I ask whether it is the government's intention to enlarge the scope of that inquiry so that the general classification of aboriginal or hereditary rights of the Indians might be a subject matter included in the terms of reference of the commission.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions between Dr. Barber and the ministry on this. The response generally has been, subject to confirmation by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, that the terms of reference as set down in the order in council would not be changed but that Dr. Barber was at liberty to interpret them in the way he wanted in receiving representations from the various Indian groups.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if he would indicate whether the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, who has been the gentleman dealing with this matter, could make a statement publicly or to the House, depending on whether the House is sitting at that time, outlining the reaction of the native people toward Dr. Barber's commission, whether there have been any groups which have appeared before him to make claims or whether in fact there has been a commission with no sort of activity because of the terms of reference.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly refer the question to the minister and see if there is any statement he can usefully make at this time.