

*Oral Questions*

charges Mr. Juneau wrote, without seeking professional opinion:

I find it hard to believe that curiosity about this fundamental human question translates into an invitation to teenage suicide.

You may find it hard to believe, Mr. Juneau, but let me quote from the written opinions of two doctors who specialize in this field. First, Dr. Huessman wrote:

It is clear that highly publicized suicides increase the likelihood of others committing suicide.

• (1415)

Dr. Marshall wrote:

It is my professional opinion that the material in "What It's Like to be Dead" could possibly stimulate a seriously discouraged teenager to act upon his suicidal thoughts.

Mr. Juneau, you acted irresponsibly by not seeking professional advice before you replied. You now owe it to the people of Canada to demand that this song not be aired again.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### THE ADMINISTRATION

RESIGNATION OF FORMER MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION—APPOINTMENT OF INVESTIGATOR

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. He has been a Member of the House for a long time and knows that issues of ministerial responsibility are better left to Parliament. Yet the Prime Minister is suggesting that he is going to appoint an outside inquiry to deal with the conduct of the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Why would the Prime Minister announce such an outside inquiry, which he says will be impartial, while saying in the same breath that he is fully confident that the former Minister will be vindicated? Would the Deputy Prime Minister not agree with me that that statement of the Prime Minister already undermines the confidence of Canadians in any such outside inquiry?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it should come as no surprise to the hon. gentleman that we are breaking new ground here.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Yeah, right.

**Mr. Nielsen:** That was quite evident last September 9 when the whole package with respect to the Code of Conduct was tabled, and in the open letter to Members and Senators, which was signed by the Prime Minister, explaining that circumstances may arise from time to time which would warrant the appointment of an impartial person to investigate the facts in given circumstances. It is no news that that new proposal was there. The hon. gentleman has had a long time between last

September and now to comment on it. I suggest to him that, in light of all the circumstances, this is the best way to proceed for this institution itself.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has reasserted his opinion that the Minister has done nothing wrong and that he will be able to resume his post in Cabinet. On what as yet unpublished facts is the Prime Minister's opinion based? And if there are new developments, why doesn't the Prime Minister of Canada reveal them, so that all Canadians will know what they are?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister):** It is precisely for that reason, Sir, that the impartial person is being sought for the purpose of conducting the investigation, a process which was explained last September. The hon. gentleman, as a former Prime Minister and the present Leader of the Opposition, should be the first to realize that the bitter and very highly partisan atmosphere which now surrounds this matter is a circumstance which compels one to the conclusion that the only impartial method of dealing with the matter is by the process contemplated last September.

PRIME MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister is making a prejudgment about the reputation of the Hon. Member for York Peel being vindicated, why would he not have shared those facts with the House of Commons or allowed the Minister, as he then was, to make such a statement? What facts does the Prime Minister have, that Canadians generally do not know about, which affect the situation?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister):** Sir, it is not I who is prejudging, it is the hon. gentleman by the very nature of his question.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The Prime Minister is prejudging.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The hon. gentleman has a responsibility, as Leader of his Party, to ensure the proper standards of conduct by some members of his own caucus with respect to this institution and its committees.

**Mr. Gauthier:** We'll look after that, Erik, thank you very much. We don't need you to tell us what to do. Look after your own.

**Mr. Andre:** When are you going to start?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order!