

Oral Questions

and did he make any suggestion as to who might be in possession of that document?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, my department did launch a complaint about the fact that some files had been stolen, but there was no indication as to where they were. I was as shocked as any other member of this House when I learned that the police had gone into the office of the hon. member.

INTERROGATION OF MEMBER CONCERNING MISSING FILE—INQUIRY AS TO AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE ACTED

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Solicitor General. Were the RCMP acting under a search warrant, was that search warrant directed toward a member of the House of Commons, or were they acting under the tyrannical powers of—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should like to bring to the attention of hon. members of the House that earlier this afternoon this very matter was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The very point which is being made in the question asked by the right hon. member is a matter which is in essence covered by the motion moved by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands, and I would hope that matter can be considered by the committee very soon to the satisfaction of hon. members.

Mr. Diefenbaker: With great deference, Mr. Speaker, what will be considered is whether what was done was a breach of privilege of a member of this House, rather than the question I am asking. I should like very much to know whether we have "Watergate's" in our midst.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): You ought to know.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, will the individual who made that intervention identify himself? Is he cowardly enough to make it without standing up?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I will identify myself. I was the one who said "You ought to know". I said that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that normally the hon. member is known for his wit, but this despicable suggestion I throw back in his teeth.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand the hon. member for St. Boniface wishes to rise on a question of privilege, but it seems to me again that we are not achieving very much by this kind of exchange.

I would remind hon. members that the situation which formed the basis of the questions asked by the right hon.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

gentleman was the subject that was referred to a committee of this House by unanimous consent. I would hope that this matter can be dealt with expeditiously by the committee. Unless there is a general wish to pursue the matter I do not think very much can be gained by continuing this exchange, particularly in view of the fact that we have only 12 minutes left before we call it six o'clock. For the moment, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. Boniface on a question of privilege.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that, in view of the seniority of the right hon. gentleman in this House, I would refrain at this time from making any further remarks and will co-operate with the Chair.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is even worse than the other remark.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I certainly do not wish to prevent the right hon. gentleman from rising if he has a question of privilege, but obviously we are not getting anywhere or achieving very much by this needless exchange between the hon. member for St. Boniface and the right hon. gentleman. I would hope that we could get on with the business of the House.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, the hon. member made an innuendo.

An hon. Member: So did you.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not think he intended to do so. What I think he intended was a smart-aleck remark, but I do say to him that any suggestion along the lines he has made is a despicable falsehood.

Mr. Trudeau: You suggested it yourself.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Prime Minister speaks now, and I suppose he would use profanity under the circumstances.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

VANCOUVER—ALLEGED FAILURE OF SOME RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO WORK—EFFECT ON MOVEMENT OF TRAINS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. We have heard continuing reports throughout today that at least one union is holding up rail traffic in the city of Vancouver. Can the minister advise the House what the present situation is and whether trains are still not moving in the Vancouver area, as well as the steps the minister is taking in an attempt to remedy that situation today?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, my officials are advising me constantly about the status of the situation in the city of Vancouver, to which the hon. member has referred, as well as in respect of one or two other cities. The reports I am receiving are to the