

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Woolliams: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I think it is the whole policy of the government's high interest rates that is responsible. I can see that I am embarrassing the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Clearly we are getting into the realm of argument. I do not think the matter should be pursued at this time. The hon. member has given notice of his intention to debate the matter at the time of adjournment.

COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANSLETTER FROM MR. SAULNIER TO
PRIME MINISTER—ACTION BY
SOLICITOR GENERAL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. My information is that Mr. Saulnier stated that he wrote a letter in April, May or June to the Prime Minister setting out the situation in connection with the Company of Young Canadians and the degree to which the group to which he referred was acting outside of the law. I ask the minister whether a copy of that letter was delivered to him as Solicitor General and was it placed in the hands of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for their attention?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Did I understand the hon. member correctly to refer to a letter I am alleged to have written to the Prime Minister?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Bell: Here we go again.

Mr. Woolliams: Put him in the Senate, Pierre; he needs it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister needs another hearing aid. Was the letter which Mr. Saulnier says was sent to the Prime Minister in April, May or June, in connection with the extraordinary and seditious activities of certain members of the CYC, brought to his attention and did he in consequence instruct the RCMP to act thereon?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has made certain assertions about a letter. I have no knowledge of such a letter, and I do not believe such a letter was written.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister: did he receive such a letter and will he table it in the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I cannot remember ever having read such a letter.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I may say, Mr. Speaker, that no such letter was ever sent or received.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Sometimes people forget, even in matters of great consequence. Would the Prime Minister have a search made to see whether such a letter was received and, if so, will he have it tabled in the House?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, surely the letter is hypothetical.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not as far as Mr. Saulnier is concerned.

Mr. Trudeau: I have not heard that Mr. Saulnier ever said he wrote me a letter to that effect.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Would the Prime Minister answer this simple question: Will he have a search made—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —to see whether it is lost and, if not, will he table it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I still want to ask a supplementary question, if I may. Refreshing his memory may help the Prime Minister. Are they hiding something?

Mr. Trudeau: I think the right hon. member may be alluding to the fact that yesterday I said that Mr. Saulnier had talked to me or had informed me about certain things, but this was not in writing; it was at the time I met him in Montreal. I know of no such letter, and if there were such a letter I would not hide it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: And would not find it.

Mr. Trudeau: I do not know if the right hon. member feels that somebody is trying to hide him.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe other hon. members have supplementary questions.

Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. I wonder if he would care to look under his bed to see whether the letter happens to be filed there?