

the R.C.M.P., but it turned out to be otherwise.

On November 21, I think it was, the same newspaper, the Chicago Tribune, carried another interview with Mr. Gouzenko in which the latter was purported to have upheld the accuracy of the first interview reported in the newspaper on October 25, and to have again expressed the desire for an interview with the United States officials. This made the situation somewhat confusing, and I should like at this point to reaffirm to the House what I said on November 17 last regarding Mr. Gouzenko's statement to the R.C.M.P. It was, of course, on the basis of this statement that the Canadian Government prepared its reply to the first request transmitted by the State Department. Our reply was delivered on November 4.

This second article to which I have referred in the Chicago Tribune cast some doubt on the R.C.M.P. report, and indeed had some hard things to say about my own good faith and veracity, which are not important enough to trouble the House with. I would merely say that I accept, myself, the accuracy and reliability of that R.C.M.P. report. We have generally found, in this House and in this country, that R.C.M.P. reports are both accurate and reliable.

SECOND NOTE

However, on November 19, the State Department delivered another note, a second note, to our Ambassador in Washington transmitting a second request from the subcommittee, relating to Mr. Gouzenko, which I have already mentioned. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, whereas the original note from the State Department forwarded a request from the subcommittee's counsel to interview Mr. Gouzenko in Canada, the latest note, the second note, forwards a request from the subcommittee chairman this time that Mr. Gouzenko, and I am quoting from it, "be made available for questioning by the subcommittee".

Mr. Coldwell: That is in the United States?

Mr. Pearson: It does not say. It just says, "questioning by the subcommittee". Mr. Gouzenko, as I stated, of course is available in that, like any Canadian, he is free to exercise his own judgment to determine his own movements. He can, of course, as I have said, discuss any subject at any time with anyone whom he chooses, and he is the person to consider the effect of such action on the special measures which have been taken since he came over to us in 1945, in his interests and at his request, to protect him.

The exact purport of the United States note that Mr. Gouzenko be made available for questioning is perhaps not clear, in that it is not explicitly stated where this questioning would take place and under whose responsibility. Presumably, as indeed I have already said, the Canadian Government would be expected to

take some responsibility in the matter. While I have said that our security authorities do not believe there is any further information to be obtained, the Government, in view of this second request from a friendly neighbour, is willing to make arrangements for a meeting to be held under Canadian auspices and in conformity with Canadian procedures. If Mr. Gouzenko is willing to attend at such a meeting, and this is in our note which we gave the United States this afternoon, any person designated by the United States Government for this purpose could be present and of course ask questions. It would, of course, Mr. Speaker, have to be understood, and we have made this clear as it was in 1949 at the meeting to which I have already referred, the evidence or information thus secured under the auspices of the Canadian Government could not be made public without the approval of that Government.

The Canadian Government never has attempted and naturally is not now attempting in any way to withhold from competent United States authorities any information that Mr. Gouzenko might have to give and which could in any way strengthen our joint security, or prevent him stating any views he may have on these matters. But we do take the view that any information from a Canadian source on matters of security should be elicited and transmitted to another Government in a proper manner in the way which we have in the past found to be very effective and valuable both to ourselves and to our friends, largely because it was done quietly and confidentially.

TEXTS TABLED

So, Mr. Speaker, I have now tabled the text of these four communications, which are available to Members of the House.

May I now turn for a moment to the second question which was asked the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) some days ago, and to which he asked me to reply today. The question: Who in Canada said what, and to whom, about Mr. Harry Dexter White, former Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury.

Members of the House may have read in the press about a letter from the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to a member of the staff of the President of the United States, dated February 1, 1946, which was released by the United States Attorney General, somewhat, as we have already said, to our surprise, as it had been classified and contained references to the Canadian Government, and Canadian sources of information.

According to this letter - and I quote from it -

- "sources high placed in the Canadian Government" passed information regarding Mr. White's loyalty to his country to the United States authorities.

There has since been considerable public speculation as to who may have passed such information, and what the information was, with