

Ontario for April 29, 1975—just very recently—a speech by the hon. John Clement, Attorney General of Ontario. As reported at page 1363 of those debates—this is my final point, Mr. Speaker—Mr. Clement said:

I refer to the fact that from September 1 to September 13 of this year, Toronto will host the fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of the Offender. I would like to express my appreciation to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Grossman) who, through his eloquent pleading at the fourth congress, was primarily instrumental in Toronto being chosen as the site for this year's meeting.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The PLO was not at the UN at that time.

Mr. Trudeau: This is April of this year.

Mr. Fraser: What year was the PLO at the UN? Put that on the record.

Mr. Alexander: Yes, let us have all the facts.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I thought the record was quite clear, that it was—

Mr. Fraser: You are darned right; the invitation was given in 1970.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I suspect the hon. member opposite is indignant over very little. If he will check what I said this afternoon, I began by saying that back in 1969 the government of Ontario had taken initiatives. If I did not make that clear, I make it clear now. Of course, this matter goes back four or five years, but the quotation I have just made from the Attorney General of Ontario dates from April of this year, long after the PLO were at the United Nations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: Read the letter of May 9, too.

Mr. Trudeau: I am prepared to apologize to Mr. Grossman if indeed I hurt his sensitivities in a way which I did not intend, and certainly that did not emerge from the context of my answers and the responsibility that I have always said the government had with regard to the holding or otherwise of this conference. So that should be quite clear. But I do think that when provinces seek to associate themselves with or even take initiatives in these matters they should be mature enough not to wash their hands of all responsibility for their actions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister of this country ought to be mature enough, when he misleads the House and creates a wrong impression, to admit it. If he wants to stand in the House and indicate that the Government of Canada issued this invitation in consultation with the Government of Ontario—in consultations had in 1969 and 1970, as the government House leader indicated in the House on Friday—that is quite appropriate. But when the

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Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) rises in this House on two occasions and gives the impression that the Government of Canada was in this situation today with regard to the PLO and this conference because a minister of the province of Ontario had “stuck his head out”, which is precisely what I objected to on Friday, I would hope that the Prime Minister would be big enough to stand up in the House and admit he had done this and apologize for it in a gracious and graceful way befitting a Prime Minister of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question was raised upon proper notice as a potential question of privilege. It has been contributed to by both sides. No motion follows the proposed question of privilege, and therefore no action is called for by the Chair.

I indicated yesterday that at three o'clock today I would rule in respect of the situation regarding Bill C-66. The President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp).

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, following your statement of yesterday there were some consultations among the House leaders, and I have to report to you that we have been unable to agree upon any steps that would be without prejudice to the progress of the bill.

Mr. Speaker: In that event I have an order to make, but perhaps it might be more appropriate to dispose of routine proceedings first and then I will make the order.

● (1520)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,884, 2,250, 2,379, 2,469, 2,480, 2,549, 2,560, 2,565, 2,596, 2,599, 2,600, 2,601, 2,602, 2,603, 2,604, 2,610, 2,611, 2,612, 2,613, 2,639, 2,781, 2,787, 2,800, 2,822, 2,867 and 2,877.

Mr. Speaker, if question No. 711 could be made an order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call starred questions Nos. 1,540 and 2,597?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.