

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Does he agree with the viewpoint put forward over the weekend by a majority of Liberal members who sit of the committee investigating the operations of the Company of Young Canadians and who objected to a legal inquiry being conducted before the committee's report is officially released?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I am not aware of any such discussion, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

## TRADE

## POSSIBLE BRITISH ENTRY INTO ECM—SAFE-GUARDING OF CANADIAN INTERESTS

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of present negotiations for the entry of Britain into the European Common Market, what steps is the Canadian government taking to safeguard private Canadian trading interests, especially with relation to agricultural products, which would be affected by British membership in the ECM?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is perhaps rather wide in scope but the Prime Minister might wish to reply to it.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, you do not have to take into consideration that the department will be answering questions tomorrow, but personally I would like to take that into consideration.

## COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS

## LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER FROM MR. SAULNIER—ACTION BY SECRETARY OF STATE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Now that the letter from Mr. Saulnier and the reply of the Prime Minister have been tabled, will he tell the House frankly what he did after this matter was brought to his attention some time between March 17 and April 1? Did he get in touch with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or with any representative of the police? In short, what action did he take to put an end to the suggestions contained in the letter from Mr. Saulnier?

21545—19½

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I have already had an opportunity to explain very fully to the committee inquiring into this matter that—

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** We are here in the House of Commons, not in the committee. You are to answer in the House of Commons.

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Yes, that is what I was about to do. But there have been rumours—

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Dont give us more of that supercilious contempt.

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** —and I say it once more in the House, I have done what the minister could do, within the scope of my extremely limited powers under the act. I met the executive director of the Company of Young Canadians. I informed him of the concern expressed, as I have always done each time I have received expressions of misgivings, whatever the source. I also contacted the Solicitor General from time to time to ascertain whether he had any information he could pass on to me of a nature to either confirm or refute the complaints which had been placed before me.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, on what date, following the receipt of that letter from Mr. Saulnier, did the minister first call in the director of the CYC and also communicate with the Solicitor General?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, since I do not keep a personal diary, I cannot give the exact date and I must answer: A few days later.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Is it because he did not keep a personal diary that he allowed this matter to be brought before the House the other day and remained silent when he knew of the existence of the letter?

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

[Later:]

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor

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