

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Creditistes, over and above, of course, the seats to their leaders. Each party, of course, will determine who within its party will be the observers.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REPRESENTATIONS TO CHINA RESPECTING CONFINEMENT OF JOURNALIST**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, during the Prime Ministers conference the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister had not heard of the incarceration in Peking of Anthony Grey. Now that the government is aware of this, in any representations to the communist government in Peking will the Canadian government point out the horrible and unjustifiable incarceration of Mr. Grey and ask that his release be provided for?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Sharp:** I am sorry. I think the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert is mistaken. I have already expressed in the House of Commons, in answer to a question, our concern about this matter. At the time the Prime Minister was asked the question in London, it was put in a rather different context.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Prime Minister should have had any difficulty answering the question. The question asked was not obtuse in any way. The Prime Minister turned to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the answer was in the negative. Will he answer my question now? In these discussions will he point out to the communist government the total disgust of the western world at the imprisonment of Anthony Grey?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I must point out that when the question was asked of me I did not say I knew nothing about it; I said the matter would be studied. The truth is that I did know about the matter.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is not what you said at the time.

**Mr. Trudeau:** But I also knew full well that perhaps the best way to obtain the release of such a gentleman from another government was not to demand publicly that that release

be obtained, because this very often is counter-productive. The other government, in order to show that it does not bow down to this great request—from Canada, keeps the gentleman in prison for another few weeks or months. It was for this reason that I did not think it very useful to make this kind of public statement on the matter.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the Secretary of State for External Affairs wants to improve on the Prime Minister's statement, I will sit down until he has finished.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I just thought I should draw the attention of the house to the reference I made, so that it is on the record. I answered a question about Mr. Grey on December 10, 1968, and it appears in *Hansard*.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** But in London the Prime Minister said he did not know anything about it. I ask him whether, now that he knows, he will adopt some of his very soft-stepping diplomacy and let the government of communist China know that what has been done is shocking to Canadians as a whole?

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Prime Minister at any time consider exchanging for Mr. Grey one of the newsmen travelling with himself.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Trudeau:** In a serious vein, Mr. Speaker, the opposition should know that one of the reasons why Mr. Anthony Grey is being held is precisely because the Peking government wants to make such an exchange for the Chinese journalists who are being imprisoned in Hong Kong. Perhaps this matter of exchange is something that can be settled between themselves, without our having to ask for volunteers from among our people.

**Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Prime Minister make this statement. Before anything is done in a unilateral way with the government of communist China, with regard to the serious question of the British journalist, will equivalent pressure be brought to bear on the British government for the release of the Chinese journalists being held in Hong Kong?