

Administration of Justice

point on for the minister or anyone else to comment upon them until the judge had made his findings.

I think it would have the very good effect of enabling this matter to be determined calmly by a judicial tribunal while we in this house carried on with the business of the country, which is what the people of this country wish us to do.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Greene: Yes.

Mr. Lewis: Has the minister been made aware of the fact that a Toronto newspaper now carries the story that the Munsinger woman, about whom we are talking, has been found alive in Germany and has offered to come back to Canada any time she is invited to do so?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. More: Resign. You have given us false information.

Mr. Greene: I do not have that information, Mr. Speaker, because I do not have my ears attuned to the press gallery as keenly as my hon. friend. But surely this is all the more reason for holding a judicial inquiry with the broadest scope possible and as quickly as possible so that this good lady—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Greene: I use that term in the broadest possible sense, Mr. Speaker—so that this good lady may be permitted to give her evidence to enlighten the house.

Mr. Lewis: Would the minister allow another question? Would the minister undertake—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for York South rising to ask a question?

Mr. Lewis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister permit another question? I am serious. I am not trying to be funny. This is far too serious a matter. Can the minister or the Minister of Justice on behalf of the government undertake that if the story is true that Miss Munsinger, if that is her name, is alive, the government will immediately take steps to bring her back to Canada in order that the truth may be known?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture does not yet have extradition matters under his authority.

[Mr. Greene.]

Mr. Lewis: That would not be necessary. She has offered to come here.

Mr. Greene: I can only re-echo the words of the Prime Minister. He has given his undertaking that it will be the broadest possible inquiry and I personally feel very certain that every effort would be made, including no doubt making it as easy as possible for the good lady to get here, so we would have all the evidence it is possible to get for this inquiry.

Mr. Lambert: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a question?

Mr. Greene: Yes.

Mr. Lambert: The minister is an experienced lawyer. Does he feel it is elementary justice that all members of the Privy Council at that time who may be involved should have to parade themselves before a commission or be called before a commission to prove their innocence?

Mr. Greene: As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I do not think this is in the nature of a trial of any individual.

Mr. Lambert: Is it not?

Mr. Greene: I have great confidence in the members of the judiciary and feel sure these matters could be resolved in such a way by a capable and experienced judge that nobody would be personally indicted before that inquiry unless he were shown by the facts to be guilty of an offence against the state.

Mr. Lambert: You would never go yourself.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) and I think it is time we set out our position once again because in my view the Minister of Agriculture has probably misunderstood it. I want to draw an analogy which I am sure will appeal to the Minister of Agriculture because he practised law in an area which has given him an appreciation of a community in the true sense of the word. What the minister is really asking for is not a judicial inquiry but an inquisition. Suppose, for example, there was a robbery in the community of the Minister of Agriculture; would everybody in the community be brought before the bar of justice for trial with regard to the robbery, without anybody being named? That is the situation that exists here. The Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) is not asking for a judicial inquiry at all; he is asking for an inquisition in respect of Privy Councillors who sit on this side of the house.