

the civil service which involve political science and which involve the parliamentary system. That is why in setting up the royal commission we made sure it was composed not merely of accountants but also of people who have knowledge of government departments and how they are run, as well as people who have knowledge of the parliamentary system, and in our view this is pretty important.

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

**Mr. Clark:** No accountant would take a Jetstar.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

#### INQUIRY IF PRIME MINISTER RECOGNIZES RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR QUEBEC

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the very bad impression made on Canadians generally, and on Quebecers specifically, by the attitude of the right hon. Prime Minister and some of the members of his cabinet towards the recent Quebec election, would the Prime Minister tell the House whether he recognizes that each one of the Canadian entities has the right to self-determination as recognized in the United Nations Charter?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as put the question seems to indicate that each province is a distinct people which are entitled to self-determination. If I understand the premises of the question correctly, it seems to me that its logic is in complete contradiction with our system. As far as I know, Canada is not made up of ten provinces each one of which claims to be a people, and claims the right to self-determination.

If, on the other hand, the hon. member claims that his logic applies solely to Quebec, which would constitute a people, I then put this question to him: If Canada is divisible, why then would Quebec also not be divisible? Are there within Quebec more than one people as he claims there are within Canada? If he can answer those questions, then I should like him to a put supplementary.

**Mr. Matte:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I am very honoured to see that the Prime Minister condescends to ask me a question. I should be very pleased to answer him but I think that, according to the rules of the House, he is the one who should answer questions. In any case, on November 6 and 7 last, the Prime Minister should have understood exactly what I meant. Therefore, I should like to ask the Prime Minister to tell us, as he said on many occasions, by which democratic process he intends to counteract the aspirations of Quebec towards independence?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; this is a hypothetical question.

● (1430)

[English]

### GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

#### REASON FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House will have listened with interest to the Prime Minister giving his views on parliament, an institution that he has tramped on ever since—

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

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I was interested in his views that chartered accountants have different views—

**An hon. Member:** Question.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —from those of members of parliament. A man holding the position—

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the right hon. member for Prince Albert has a question would he please put it forthwith?

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have been here a long time—

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have found out that truth travels slowly, particularly to those who are stupid.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Is not the position that Mr. Macdonell holds one that makes him responsible to parliament and gives to him the right to say whether or not the government or any part of the institutions of government, are going astray? Does he say that a person holding Mr. Macdonell's position does not have that right? I ask him, therefore, why is it that having regarded members of parliament as nobodies and even worse over the years, he has not had his government carry out the 150 recommendations made by a committee of members of parliament over the years? Why is it that these recommendations are treated with that supreme contempt that he has toward parliament at all times?

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

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the question is somewhat loaded. The hon. member suggests that I trample on the rights of parliament but it seems to me that nine times out of ten when he rises to ask a question he is breaking the rules of this House.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!