

announced very soon. I do not think that they are bound forever, either. There are some former Conservatives on the list, and I suppose they too could resign to seek the leadership of the Conservative Party.

#### ROLE OF PROVINCES

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the Prime Minister. I would point out that Canadians are anxious to know what it is they are paying for, and who is going to be on the Commission. One of the tasks of the Commission is to make recommendations relating to the economic aspects of federal-provincial relations. What steps has the Government taken to ensure the participation of the Provinces as full partners in the Royal Commission process?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, it is a Royal Commission set up under the authority of the federal Government and it has not been envisaged that the Provinces would be full participants, to use the Hon. Member's expression, in the operation of that Commission. The Provinces set up Royal Commissions of their own without full participation of the federal Government in areas within their jurisdiction; and that is the way it should be.

This being said, Madam Speaker, I do regret that the nature of the leak which forced me to confirm the existence of the Commission before I had planned to do so precluded me from informing the Provinces, as I had planned to do before announcing the formation of the Commission and, indeed, the composition of its membership.

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#### MULTICULTURALISM

##### STATEMENT BY SOLICITOR GENERAL ON ETHNIC ORGANIZATION HANDBOOK

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, the Solicitor General has just issued a statement which puts into serious question statements made previously to the House by the Minister of State for Multiculturalism and by the Minister for Employment and Immigration.

In part it says:

The Solicitor General has been informed that the handbook has been used as reference material with regard to security clearances, citizenship and immigration cases and responses to other Government Departments. It may also have been used for background or contextual information for other security reports.

Will the Solicitor General tell the House whether the individuals whose cases were affected by this document will be informed of that fact, what redress they will have, and how can he give the House the assurance that, as it says in his statement, the information contained in the document was not transferred to individual files?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, as I indicated in the statement I made today, the handbook has

#### Oral Questions

been made available to members of the Security Service, and limited to members of the Security Service, on an open shelf, in a limited access area, in the Security Service. I certainly cannot therefore indicate how often it was used and in what particular cases it was used.

#### POLITICAL DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN IN HANDBOOK

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, the Minister's response will be of absolutely no solace to the individuals whose cases might have been affected by the handbook.

I want to put my supplementary question to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism who, on Monday, made the following statement to the House. He said:

It was an identification of political activities in the sense of old country politics, right wing, left wing, and what the source or goal was, if there was a political goal, in the sense of old country politics.

The Government has continued to insist there is no identification of the Canadian political involvement of these groups. How does the Minister square that statement with the description of the activities of the Central Association of Sudeten Germans in Canada, which says:

The political affiliation has been continued in Canada: first being CCF, now strongly NDP. All social activities as well as their publication, have a strong political undertone, advocating the principles and goals of the labour movement and the NDP.

How can the Minister expect to be believed by the House of Commons when he says that the only intention of this handbook was to describe old country politics, when in fact it tracks activities of these ethnic organizations as they relate to domestic political parties in Canada?

**Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Madam Speaker, I might point out to the Hon. Member, as was reported in *The Globe and Mail* after the release by the Hon. Member opposite yesterday of his copy that he or someone had been holding onto since the 1979 Clark Government, that one of 111 groups was referred to in Canadian political terms, which I believe makes my point—now he signals two of 111—which I believe makes my point that this book overwhelmingly dealt with organizations; few individuals were mentioned; and it was entirely different from the Party Québécois list which dealt with individuals overwhelmingly, their Canadian political affiliation and, in some cases, their sexual orientation. It seems to me there is quite a difference.

I would also like to remind the Hon. Member, because he said this practice was reprehensible, that I do not think it is reprehensible to list the purpose of an organization if it is coming to you for funding, but I think it should be done on a case by case basis as I have been doing for the past two and one half years. The booklet was initiated by the Diefenbaker Government in 1960, including the restricted list and sending it to the "I" Section of the RCMP, and making it confidential.