

States security authorities as it became available to us. Our Royal Commission, it will be recalled, made a very thorough investigation in secret as a result of which prosecutions were launched, and where those prosecuted under the law were found guilty they were punished, and if found not guilty they were released from custody. I think it would not have been proper, however, for the Canadian Royal Commission or the Canadian Government to have made public so serious an allegation against an unnamed official of a friendly Government. It seemed obvious to us that in accordance with our normal practice in these matters such an allegation should first be investigated by those competent to do so. However, the Canadian Government, the Canadian authorities, did pass the testimony confidentially, and I think the House will agree that this was the correct course, to the responsible United States officials.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in addition to these full facilities which I have just mentioned and which have always been available to the F.B.I., the United States Government in May, 1949, requested the Canadian Government to arrange for a confidential interview between Mr. Gouzenko and representatives of the immigration subcommittee of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary for the specific purpose of questioning Mr. Gouzenko in relation to certain stated aspects of immigration procedure.

#### 1949 INTERVIEW

The Canadian Government at that time was assured by the United States Government that if this request were granted the evidence taken from Mr. Gouzenko would be kept secret unless the Canadian Government should agree to its release. Under these circumstances, and under these conditions, the Canadian Government then agreed to the United States request, and two members of the staff of the United States Senate subcommittee, to which I have just referred, did come to Ottawa and interviewed Mr. Gouzenko in the presence of a member of the United States Embassy and representatives of the R.C.M.P.

The conditions at that time, 1949 -- they do not seem to be the same now because of the publicity given to this matter -- made it possible without too much difficulty for this inquiry of Mr. Gouzenko to be arranged and carried on without the public attention which might, in its turn, have prejudiced Mr. Gouzenko's safety status in this country. I have looked at the evidence again recently, and the questions at this inquiry were not limited to the specific subjects for which the interview had been requested. Of course, we are making no complaint about that. However, nothing beyond the information which Mr. Gouzenko had already made available to the Canadian authorities, and which we made available also at the time to the United States authorities, emerged

from this 1949 questioning. In other words, this questioning produced no intelligence that had not been already made available to the United States security services.

I wish now, Mr. Speaker, to say a word about the sequence of developments in this matter during the last few weeks. The Members of the House will, I think, recall that in October a newspaper which modestly calls itself the world's greatest newspaper, the Chicago Tribune -- about that there might, of course, be some difference of opinion -- reported an interview with Mr. Gouzenko in which the latter stated that, in his opinion, an interview with a United States Congressional Committee or members of the United States Congress would be, and the words used were, "worth while".

#### R.C.M.P. INTERVIEW

This report was, I think not unnaturally, interpreted by us to mean that Mr. Gouzenko felt he had some further useful information to give. If he had such information or views that were worth while, we naturally thought that he would give them to the Canadian authorities at this time. Immediately this report appeared in the press, therefore, the R.C.M.P. then interviewed Mr. Gouzenko to ascertain whether the report on this matter was accurate and what new information might be secured. An R.C.M.P. officer interviewed Mr. Gouzenko and reported to my colleague the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) that in the interview of October 27 Mr. Gouzenko had told him he had no information that he had not long since made available to the Canadian authorities; that he had been misquoted by the Chicago Tribune; and that he was not, under any circumstances, willing to proceed to the United States to be interviewed by a Congressional committee.

The R.C.M.P. also notified the Minister of Justice that Mr. Gouzenko denied that he had ever criticized the handling of his case by Canadian authorities or the use which was made of the information and documents which he had given to the Canadian authorities. Meanwhile, the Canadian Government received the note from the United States Secretary of State transmitting the first request of the Senate subcommittee to interview Mr. Gouzenko, the note of October 29 with which I have already dealt, and the request in this first note was to interview Mr. Gouzenko in Canada.

As the House will recall, because I made a statement at the time in the House, the Canadian Government replied that Mr. Gouzenko had stated to the R.C.M.P. that he had been misquoted by the Chicago Tribune and had no additional information to give. The United States Government, therefore, was notified that under the circumstances we assumed that the reasons for the request from the Senate subcommittee had disappeared. I think it was a reasonable assumption to make in view of the interview I have just mentioned between Mr. Gouzenko and