

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I will pass this suggestion to my colleague who may or may not want to reveal the terms of reference. At any rate, he will be quite happy to make a statement when the negotiations are completed.

**Miss MacDonald:** I have one final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Given the commitment of the Secretary of State for External Affairs of March 11 that he would co-operate with any effort that might be made on a bilateral basis to have the subject ventilated in the House, would the minister undertake to table the tentative accord with India before it is ratified and put down a motion to debate it. I am sure the House leader understands that this is appropriate parliamentary procedure, even if the Prime Minister would dispute it.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, there has been no agreement yet reached between India and Canada so that most of the discussion is quite premature. There has been, I understand, an initialling of a tentative understanding. That has not yet been approved by the government, so there really is nothing yet to talk about.

\* \* \*

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****ALLEGATION OF GANGING-UP ON FRENCH SPEAKING MINISTER—SOURCE OF RUMOUR**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. It arises out of answers to questions of the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister's answer with regard to his categorical denial that those rumours were not discussed in cabinet. In view of what the minister and what the Prime Minister have said, is the minister prepared to say to this House that not one minister of the government expressed the view that this matter was a ganging-up of the English-speaking establishment, and that he did not refer to the cabinet or any minister in the cabinet when he told the judge that this view was held in some quarters in Ottawa.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure but I think probably what the hon. gentleman is trying to do is ascertain what I have said to my colleagues or what they have said to me. It does not seem to me to be very profitable to try to pursue a line which I repeat I decline to be led down.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say, through you to the Minister of Public Works, that that is exactly what I am not doing. I hoped the answer to the question would be no. Yesterday the minister said he would not tell us what passed between his colleagues and himself privately. The Prime Minister has said that the matter was not discussed in cabinet. Is the minister now saying to us there were some other sources in Ottawa who brought to his attention what might be called baseless rumours, other than a cabinet minister, and if that is the case who are they?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to pin down the source of information as to a particular rumour. I think the

[Miss MacDonald.]

hon. gentleman is aware of the fact that such a story is on the record of the House of Commons, in view of the attempted motion yesterday. I quite frankly would be unwilling to try to attribute to a particular source my first hearing of this story.

● (1130)

**ALLEGATION OF GANGING-UP ON FRENCH SPEAKING MINISTER—POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR ALLEGATION IN ACCEPTANCE OF MR. OUELLET'S RESIGNATION**

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it is on the same issue. In view of what I suggest is a double standard in accepting the resignations from the two gentlemen involved in the same impropriety, would the Prime Minister not agree with me that that double standard would add support to the very rumour which the Minister of Public Works says is baseless?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think I can now answer the question of the Leader of the Opposition where this kind of rumour originates. It originates in the kind of question that was just put to me.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

**ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE WITH JUDICIARY—KNOWLEDGE OF PRIME MINISTER IF MR. OUELLET'S DISCUSSIONS LIMITED TO MR. DRURY**

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Again I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Not taking the full two week moratorium on asking questions from ministers but whenever the Prime Minister finally did ask detailed questions of the ministers involved about what happened, did the Minister of Public Works say to the Prime Minister that only he, the Minister of Public Works, was involved in a conversation with the former minister of consumer and corporate affairs, or were other ministers involved in this discussion, separate and apart from any cabinet discussion?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I did not ask him this. I did say to the House that I know the former minister of consumer and corporate affairs probably discussed it with several of his friends and ministers. I know he discussed it with me and he probably discussed it with the Minister of Public Works alone and in the presence of others.

**INQUIRY WHETHER MR. DRURY ADMITTED IMPROPER CONDUCT PRIOR TO RESIGNATION**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. On the Friday at issue the Minister of Public Works thought it necessary to tender his resignation. Subsequently he had a conversation with the Prime Minister, following which his resignation was not accepted. Did the Prime Minister ask the Minister of Public Works whether his conduct was one of wrongdoing and improper and, if so, what was the answer?