

QUEBEC—INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED DISCUSSIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): My question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister has confided to the press that the government has "solid information" regarding alleged discussions for the setting up of a provisional government in Quebec, the said discussions having taken place in that province prior to October 16, is the Prime Minister prepared to take the House into his confidence and give to hon. members the contents of this solid information regarding the incident in question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the solid information I referred to, when asked by the press if I had any solid information and my answer was yes, is the facts that have been laid before the country by the person who was involved in this, in an editorial last Friday.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In view of that—

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): As a supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I see the difficulty of the hon. member for Calgary North and I will recognize him in a moment. In the meantime I will allow the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands a supplementary question. I will return to the hon. member for Calgary North in due course.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if, in this solid information which the government has, there is any indication that the discussions regarding the setting up of a provisional government in the province of Quebec contemplated any unconstitutional or illegitimate actions to establish such a government?

Mr. Trudeau: None that I know of, Mr. Speaker, but they were obviously predicated on the fact that a government that had been elected six months before with an overwhelming majority of seats was now, in the mind of this person, so unstable and unlikely to last that he was contemplating a means to replace it.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask if this solid information, which the government alleges it has in its possession, was a factor in the government deciding to proclaim the War Measures Act?

Mr. Trudeau: I have answered this all last week, Mr. Speaker, during which time the opposition was busy spreading this rumour; the answer was no and it still is no.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

QUEBEC—ALLEGED PLOT TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT—LAYING OF CHARGES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of the Prime Minister's statements today and the statements he made on Friday regarding a plot to create a provisional government in Quebec, are charges being laid against any person under the War Measures Act, the sedition sections of the Criminal Code or any other sections of the code in view of the solid information he says he has?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): None that I know, Mr. Speaker, and I would even say I think not. The solid information was the fact that these conversations had taken place. Had I in this House, when asked about these rumours, said I knew nothing about them I would not have been telling the truth. Had I confirmed them I would have been accused of spreading the rumours. Therefore I told the House I did not want to deny or confirm such rumours.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Justice. In view of the facts set out by the Prime Minister in the House today and also on Friday, has any thought been given to laying a charge of criminal conspiracy in respect of illegal discussions and agreements in the conversations the Prime Minister has discussed?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): No Sir.

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BROADCASTING

PROVISION OF SECOND TELEVISION CHANNEL IN SYDNEY, N.S.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Secretary of State who reports to the House for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. It is further to previous questions I have posed on the same subject. Has a decision been reached as yet on the provision of a second television service for Cape Breton Island and eastern Nova Scotia? If the minister has not got the information at hand, would he immediately check with the CRTC and the CBC to ascertain what progress is being made and how soon this service will be available to the many taxpayers concerned?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the matter is still under consideration as part of the CBC's capital expenditure projects. I have followed the matter closely but, for the moment, I would like to take notice of the exact question put by the hon. member in order to give him as soon as possible the very latest information on this matter.

[English]

Mr. Muir: I thank the minister for his reply. At the same time would he also investigate the alternative of