

Oral Questions

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**ORGANIZED CRIME—REASON GOVERNMENT HAS NOT APPOINTED ROYAL COMMISSION TO STUDY**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice, and possibly also a question for the Solicitor General. I wonder why the government has decided not to have a royal commission on crime. Is it the fact that if such a commission were set up, some revelations about some well known and pampered pets of liberalism would be made? I refer to people such as John C. Doyle who, despite the fact that he had a criminal record and wanted to get out of the country, had his passport returned to him, thereby enabling him to be a fugitive from justice. Hal Banks was able to escape punishment by leaving Canada after being granted bail, with the government consenting thereto. I refer, also, to Lucien Rivard, of rink-icing fame. Is the government afraid that if a commission were set up, some revelations concerning these matters, which have been hidden for several years, would be made? Is that the truthful reason—not an evasive reason—for the failure of the government to set up this commission?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that the right hon. gentleman has played an outstanding role in the public life of this country, I find it very hard to believe that he would ask that question about a very serious problem with any other purpose than the purpose of mischief.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1440)

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Hees: You are too precious, Ron.

Mr. Basford:—I only mention two points: first, that of Mr. Banks.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Just listen to the corporal.

Mr. Clark: Are you going to phone a judge?

Mr. Basford: I think the record will show that the government of the right hon. gentleman did little about that situation. Second, with regard to Mr. Doyle I just indicate that, of course, the removal of the passport of someone on bail is a decision not of government but of a magistrate or judge.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes, but with the consent of the government.

Mr. Basford: That was opposed by the attorney general of Newfoundland. Second, in connection with income tax matters, I made it clear in this House that the instructions to our

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

counsel, from both myself and the Department of National Revenue, are to pursue those income tax matters as expeditiously as possible. Third, the right hon. gentleman will know that only a short time ago action was taken pursuant to the Canadian Corporations Act to seize and examine the records of Canadian Javelin.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Alexander: Go get 'em, Chief.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I did not get the contribution of the hon. gentleman opposite. What was it? He always runs for cover from a seated position with those interruptions of his. I ask the Minister of Justice, can he come clean? I am not suggesting in any way connivance on his part or deception. I never do that with regard to this government. It is stupidity. I ask this: Now that he believes he has an answer to the question I raised, will he reconsider the matter? Will he give the country the opportunity to find out the truth, to find out why those protected and pampered Grits received such good attention over the years?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, unlike the right hon. gentleman, I cannot become much cleaner.

Mr. Clark: Then have an inquiry and let's see.

Mr. Hees: You are splitting hairs. Stick to the straight line, Ron, and don't try to be funny. You are comic, anyway.

Mr. Basford: Where's George Hees?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Let's not split hairs.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that in none of the three cases raised by the right hon. gentleman is there evidence to support the proposition that there should be an inquiry. The only matter in which action is being currently taken is with regard to John C. Doyle, and I have already stated the government's position on that. Instructions have been issued to counsel that every possible step should be taken in court to prosecute with regard to outstanding income tax matters. Second, an investigation is being conducted into the corporate affairs of Canadian Javelin Limited. We are taking proper, investigative legal measures and there is no need to call or to have a royal commission on the matter.

Mr. Hees: What about your pal Hal?

ORGANIZED CRIME—HONG KONG POLICEMEN GRANTED LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration fol-