

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 5, 1963

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Second report of standing committee on public accounts—Mr. Macnaughton.

THE MINISTRY

INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER CHANGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether in view of current reports he contemplates any further changes in the ministry.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the current reports are that have been turned out by the Liberal propaganda factory.

Mr. Pearson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister whether he considers the press, radio and television a Liberal propaganda factory?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I consider the inspiration to be Liberal propaganda.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order. In view of the fact that there seems to be an overload on the power system, perhaps we could have more light than heat this afternoon.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister advise the house if he has named a Minister of National Defence?

Mr. Diefenbaker: When a minister is named, the house will be advised.

[Later:]

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, because of the public interest may I ask the Prime Minister if it was not communicated to the right hon. gentleman today that a number of his colleagues wished him to vacate the office of Prime Minister—and be replaced by one of his colleagues?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, such a communication came to me by radio and, as I said earlier, was part of the Liberal propaganda.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister. Was that information as the result of a meeting which the Prime Minister knows to have taken place this morning in the office of one of his colleague ministers?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think we are getting into an area of debate on this matter. Also we are coming to a debate in which all these points can be raised.

FINANCE

PAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT BILLS AND SALARIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Walter L. Gordon (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in view of the precarious financial position of the government—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Shame on you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member will reflect upon his opening words and try to direct his mind to standing order 39 I think he will see where he is heading.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance if he is planning to pay salaries and bills after today under the authority of governor general's warrants?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if there were any precarious financial position it would have been largely contributed to by the hon. member for Davenport and his party.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know there is a particular zest for debate in the house today, but perhaps we could reserve that sort of energy and desire for the resumption of the debate on the supply motion. Perhaps we could now have questions and answers more suitable to orders of the day.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege affecting all hon. members—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.