

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman will send me a copy of his report I will be glad to examine it, and if the circumstances warrant it can be passed on to the police and to the mayor of Ottawa.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, I would think that the Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is no time for argument.

[Later:]

Mr. John Loney (Bruce): My question is for the Minister of Justice, but in his absence I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Will the minister inform the house whether the R.C.M.P. were instructed to restrict or restrain spectators and non-participants who entered the grounds of the parliament buildings on Monday evening during the flag demonstration? Will the minister investigate the situation in which a member of this house was forcibly restrained and asked to identify himself as a member of parliament before he was allowed to proceed?

Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): I would be glad to bring this matter to the minister's attention.

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON AUDIENCE OF TRANSPORT MINISTER WITH THE QUEEN

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister concerning the recent trip to London of the Minister of Transport and his audience with Her Majesty the Queen, and also concerning the government's delay in starting a debate on Canada's two flags. Could the Prime Minister tell the house whether it is true that Her Majesty the Queen explained that the union jack was the flag of the United Kingdom and its colonies, while Canada was rather a sovereign country? Could he also explain whether that is the reason for the government's delay in introducing its legislation?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: This question is out of order. It is hypothetical.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Ten o'clock.

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Some hon. Members: Ten o'clock bogeyman.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege—

[Text]

REQUEST THAT NEW DESIGN BE FLOWN ON PARLIAMENT HILL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister, and I have given him notice of it. In view of the evident interest of the members of parliament, as well as the general public, in the subject of a flag for Canada, can or will arrangements be made to have the flag proposed in the resolution flown on the flagpoles in front of the parliament buildings which are used from time to time for flying other than official flags, so that members in making their decision can have the advantage of seeing for themselves the proposed flag flying as it will appear if adopted?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We would be glad, Mr. Speaker, to arrange to have that done.

Mr. Brewin: May I ask a supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister consider at the same time also flying in the same manner a design with a single maple leaf on it?

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there would be some responsibility on the government to show to members the flag which is described in the resolution so they would have it before them before they decide. We have not, of course, the same responsibility in regard to any other design. However, I will be glad to look into this suggestion.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Possibly the Prime Minister would enlighten the house as to the number of hours, approximately, that this flag was flying out at the Prime Minister's summer home?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am sure the people of Canada would like to know how long it took before he arrived at the decision that it was, to use his word, "wonderful".

Mr. Pearson: This flag was flown for some hours over the summer cottage of the Prime Minister, on private property where there