

External Affairs

were prepared, if that government wished, to make public the transcript, with the exception of a few minor deletions, the reasons for which he outlined.

This month a note was received from the United States government requesting that the full transcript, minus our deletions, be made public by the Canadian government as soon as might be possible. I should therefore now like to table copies of this transcript.

In doing so, I should like to remind the house that prior to this interview Mr. Gouzenko had been interrogated exhaustively by security authorities many times, over a period of several years, since he first made himself available to us in the autumn of 1945. The appropriate security authorities of the United States government at all times had access to all Mr. Gouzenko's information without reservation. Although the transcripts of evidence which Mr. Gouzenko gave to the royal commission in 1946 and the reports of his other interrogations by security officers were not themselves made public, the bulk of the information contained in them was made public in the report of the royal commission published in 1946 and in the numerous articles written by Mr. Gouzenko and in the interviews granted by him to representatives of the Canadian and United States press during recent years.

Therefore, it will not be surprising to members of the house that the transcript of Mr. Gouzenko's evidence at this January 4 meeting discloses very little—if indeed there is any—information not already available to the public. Of course it does not disclose any information of a security type not previously known to the Canadian and United States security authorities.

I should explain that the reason why the transcript was not made public previously in view of the considerable interest shown in this meeting, was that the whole object of this meeting was to provide an opportunity to representatives of the United States government to interview Mr. Gouzenko on matters pertaining to the internal security of the United States. It was therefore not considered appropriate for Canada to make the transcript public unless so requested by the United States government, as it has now done.

As already explained to the house by the parliamentary assistant (Mr. Pinard) in his statement of February 16, 1954, a few minor deletions have been made in this transcript, in order to eliminate references either in the questions or in the answers publication of which in this context might jeopardize Canadian security investigations of individuals or

organizations in Canada, or might be open to question on grounds of international propriety as relating primarily to the interests of a third country. In each case these deletions are marked by square brackets with indication of the number of words omitted.

Finally, I should like to say that Mr. Gouzenko has been good enough to read over the transcript and has testified to its completeness and accuracy.

[Later:]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice arising out of the statement he made a few moments ago with respect to Igor Gouzenko. In view of the extent to which Mr. Gouzenko has been revealing his identity, in his writings and in interviews, does the government feel there is any useful purpose in continuing to protect his anonymity by means of police protection?

Mr. Garson: Mr. Speaker, I think the question which the hon. member has just asked is not one which is appropriate on the orders of the day without notice.

Mr. Knowles: Perhaps the minister would answer it tomorrow?

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a question with respect to the statement regarding the transcript just tabled by the minister with reference to the deletions made for various reasons, including the fact that this might involve a third country. Would the minister say whether more than one such third country was included, or whether only one was included? If so, whether that country was Russia and, if so, why it should be considered necessary to have regard to any feelings in that matter.

Mr. Garson: Mr. Speaker, I should think it would be rather obvious to everyone that the reasons for the deletions being made are the same as those which would apply with even greater force in regard to an answer being given to my hon. friend's question.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question in view of the tabling of the transcript of this interview. When Mr. Gouzenko appears on television, as I believe he has done, is any prior, shall I say, censorship exercised over what he says, or may he say what he likes? If so, might not that practice conflict with the kind of precautions which the minister and the government quite properly exercised in regard to interviews?

Mr. Garson: Mr. Speaker, it is a practice which, I think it is fair to say, has never yet