

Inquiries of the Ministry

ter. Will the Prime Minister look into the recent conviction of ERCO under the Combines Investigation Act for maintaining a monopoly against the public interest, and Dr. Solandt's position as chairman of the Science Council and vice-president of ERCO?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact the Prime Minister was seeking advice from him when the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway asked her question, I would like to go straight to the fount of knowledge of this government and ask the President of the Treasury Board—

Mr. Trudeau: Where is this presidential system going?

Mr. Lewis:—whether the government is considering asking Dr. Solandt to resign as chairman of the Science Council in view of the obviously evident conflict of interest because of his high office in the corporation to which reference has been made?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think in any instance where we as a country endeavour to secure the part-time services of a distinguished citizen of Canada, some incidence of conflict of interest is bound to arise. If the man heading the Science Council of Canada had no other interest than that, he would not be a distinguished Canadian. In the present circumstances I think one has to take into account one's view as to the ability of Dr. Solandt to rise above this type of conflict, and in him we have confidence.

Mr. Lewis: Would the President of the Treasury Board undertake at least to consider searching for another qualified person who would not be tarred by a conflict of interest which can do nothing but harm to the work of the Science Council of Canada?

Mr. Drury: The government is always on the lookout for good and better people. When the hon. member suggests that we might look for a replacement for Dr. Solandt on the Science Council on the basis of the representation he has just made, the answer is no.

Mrs. MacInnis: Can the minister not find somebody who is not connected with a firm which was fined \$40,000 for offences against the Combines Investigation Act?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later:]

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the principle advocated by the President of the Treasury Board is the principle which the government is following in accepting members into the cabinet who have a conflict of interest—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I should like to rephrase my question to the Prime Minister. Is the principle which is advocated by the President of the Treasury Board accepted by him when considering as candidates for cabinet office hon. members who have outside interests in corporations—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

AIR TRANSPORT

ACTION TO END POLLUTION BY JET PLANES

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): My question is intended for the Minister of Transport but in his absence perhaps the Prime Minister will take it. In view of the fact that the United States government has advised all its commercial airlines that they must end pollution of the air by jet engine smoke by 1972, does the Canadian government contemplate issuing a similar directive to our own airlines?

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, I am taking the question as notice and shall submit it to him as soon as he returns.

[English]

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question with regard to pollution by jet engines and I wish to direct it to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister ordered a similar conversion to clean burning fuel systems of jet aircraft within the military service?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

NATIONAL PARKS

ALLEGED REMARKS BY MINISTER TO RESIDENTS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and