

the Prime Minister is telling the truth, then the R.C.M.P. commissioner has to leave. There is no other choice.

They cannot both stay because there would always be one of them who did not tell the truth, maybe not on purpose, but it remains that he would not have told the truth.

I was surprised to see that commissioner McLellan gave answers so quickly, even without being asked anything. From what I can see, questions were not even put to him and the R.C.M.P. commissioner gave answers, and quickly at that, apparently happy to do so. His attitude gave me the impression, and other members told me they had the same impression, that the R.C.M.P. commissioner felt that things had not been going too well for some time and took that opportunity to make some statements and say afterwards: Now, if the Prime Minister wants to discharge me, everyone will claim he is getting even and my position is safe.

That, Mr. Speaker, is an interpretation which is entirely logical.

Should the Prime Minister discharge commissioner McLellan, many people will say that he is getting even. And the commissioner is sure of keeping his post, or, at least, he wanted to make sure he would keep it that way. If you read the evidence over, you will see that the answers were given quickly, that the commissioner even anticipated the questions, that he gave the answers freely without even waiting for the questions. That is strange.

But on the other hand, all that was brought to light in order to distract attention from the Munsinger case, to put the blame on someone else. The Leader of the Opposition would be happy to focus on the Prime Minister the attention now centered upon him, to try to prevent the inquiry into the Munsinger case.

Mr. Speaker, the house or the Canadian people should not allow attention to be drawn off the main point, which is the Munsinger investigation itself.

As far as the other problem is concerned, the right hon. Prime Minister gave us explanations. He stated what he had said that day he requested the reports. As I said a while ago, this is inconsistent with what the R.C.M.P. commissioner said.

The Prime Minister knows very well now that there remains only one solution for him and for the R.C.M.P. He should not need much time to decide. I agree that the examination and cross-examination of commissioner McLellan has not yet taken place. If he

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wished to correct or justify certain answers he gave at that time, the Prime Minister would have a part to play. If his statement is corrected in the sense mentioned by the Prime Minister, the case will be settled; if not, the Prime Minister will have to dismiss commissioner McLellan.

May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Valade: May I put a question?

[English]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED UNDER ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the following questions will be discussed on the adjournment motion tonight: the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), External Affairs—mainland China—possibility of recognition; the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Schreyer), Agriculture—request for white paper on national policy; the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), Old Age Security—request for increase to \$100 per month.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CHANGE IN TIME FOR TAKING OF VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO SUPPLY MOTION

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in relation to the time of the vote which is scheduled for 8.15 p.m. today. In view of the fact there has been an important statement by the Prime Minister today, I am wondering whether the house would be amenable to the idea that each of the opposition parties be given an opportunity to make at least a brief statement. Perhaps we could have unanimous consent to postponing the time of the taking of the vote until the hon. member for Lapointe has completed his remarks and the leader of the Social Credit party and the leader of this party have had an opportunity of speaking.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles: I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that we postpone the taking of the vote until nine o'clock so that the time between eight and nine could be divided equally among those members.

Mr. Speaker: Does the house give unanimous consent to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre?