

Inquiries of the Ministry

of this kind parliament should at least be entitled to know what minister is in charge of the study. That was the question I asked, and I wonder whether the Prime Minister would not reply to that part of the question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, there was no complication, except from the lips of the hon. gentleman, that public funds were being spent.

Mr. Hellyer: It is the minister in charge of mysticism.

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister received a letter from President Kennedy seeking an indication of Canadian government plans concerning ratification of the Columbia river treaty and suggesting that the United States government will seek alternative power sources for the Pacific northwest if ratification is not given soon?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. Deschatelets (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister speaks to the Progressive Conservative association in Montreal this evening, is it his intention to announce—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Party meetings are not considered public administration, and to inquire in advance what a minister proposes to say at a party meeting seems to me to be going beyond the scope of either questions on the orders of the day or written questions.

PUBLIC SERVICE**AVAILABILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Noel Dorion (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the question asked yesterday on the orders of the day by the hon. member for Timmins, which related to the divulging to private parties by employees of several government departments of information contained in the records of these government

departments, was presumably directed to the Secretary of State in his capacity of dealing with questions involving more than one department. I assure the hon. member that this role of the Secretary of State is confined to questions and motions for papers which appear on the order paper and not to verbal questions raised on orders of the day. Since, further, I have no over-all responsibility for the security of information in departmental records, I suggest to the hon. member that he direct his inquiry to the ministers responsible for the departments concerned.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**FORT WILLIAM—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF ARMOURIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister received a letter from Lieutenant Colonel L. T. Poulter urging the construction of an armoury in Fort William? If so, is the government giving favourable consideration to the establishment of armoury facilities in that city soon, or in the foreseeable future?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I did receive such a letter two days ago. The hon. member will remember that he raised the matter of the provision of an armoury for Fort William when the estimates of the department were being considered, and we had considerable discussion. At that time I explained the general armoury situation in Canada and the fact that we more or less have a priority list, and informed him where Fort William stood on that list.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**CANADAIR—PRODUCTION OF CL-41 JET TRAINERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. Has the government decided to order from Canadair a number of CL-41 jet trainers for the Royal Canadian Air Force? If the government has not reached a decision on this matter, in view of the impending layoffs at Canadair will the government make an early decision on it?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, the only announcement on this program was made by the Minister of National Defence during the last session of parliament when he said the