

because the statements made cannot but be dangerous to our relationship with the United States?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I want to say in all seriousness to the right hon. gentleman that I did not say that in order to be facetious. I thought he would be interested to know that there has been no change in the activities carried on in the field of intelligence and of security information since he was Prime Minister of this country. I thought this would reassure him. I have had a report and so have my colleagues on the program last night.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: Yes, we have, and we have looked at these allegations. I agree with the right hon. gentleman that they are most mischievous and misleading.

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question deals with the answer just given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like him to advise the House whether he feels, in view of the release of this information, that the scientific credibility of the National Research Council has been impaired as a result of this revelation that it may be engaged in this kind of activity?

Mr. Sharp: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no.

● (1430)

ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT AND
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IN ELECTRONIC
SURVEILLANCE

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. I remind him of the series of some 30 questions I placed on the order paper earlier this year, which were purported to have been answered last July and one of which specifically dealt with the activities of the Department of National Defence and the National Research Council in electronic surveillance by their establishment at Shirley's Bay, since removed. Will the Prime Minister, who on that occasion answered the question by saying that it would not be in the interests of national security to release the information, now reconsider that matter in the light of the revelations that have been made over the public media?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, not at all. The Canadian government, as indicated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, has always collected what information was available to it in its territory. We have never, to my knowledge, certainly not under my government, engaged in any espionage abroad in the sense that we have not been looking for information in an undercover way in any other country. But with regard to what comes into our territory we do take what cognizance of it we can, and certainly it would be recognized, even by the hon. member, not to be in the public interest to indicate by what means and where this information is gathered.

Mr. Nielsen: The Prime Minister couched his reply just now in terms of activities with respect to actions abroad. The question I advanced to the government last spring, which was answered last July, had to do with the use of

Oral Questions

equipment by the Department of National Defence and the National Research Council for the purpose of maintaining surveillance on the whole of the telephone system in the Ottawa area. It is this aspect of the question that I am directing to the Prime Minister since he chose last July to say in his answer that it would not be in the public interest to reveal that kind of information. In light of the revelation on last night's program, perhaps he would like to reconsider that answer and inform the people of Canada whether such machinery does exist?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member might be wiser to talk about allegations rather than revelations if he is referring to last night's program. Certainly there have been several allegations made, some of which I know to be false, but on the general principle of assembling information which might help Canada in preserving the security of its territory or, indeed, even in exchanging information with some of our friends and allies, there is clear admission by the government that this is done. The hon. member is asking how it is done, by what means and in what areas. He is referring specifically to some system around Ottawa. My answer is that we do not answer that kind of question and we do not intend to.

INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTELLIGENCE
TREATY OR ARRANGEMENT WITH UNITED STATES, GREAT
BRITAIN, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in light of his answer to the previous question, if he would explain to the House, either now or on motions, the nature and extent of Canadian participation in the four-party intelligence treaty operative between the United States, Great Britain, France and Australia?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to the specific treaty called UKUSA, the answer is that we are not a party to such a treaty.

[Later:]

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): The Prime Minister cited a specific treaty in response to my original question. I should like to know whether there is any Canadian participation in any four-party intelligence treaty or arrangement operative between the United States, Great Britain, France and Australia and, if so, will he indicate to the House either now or on motions the nature of that Canadian participation?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the treaty question was one which was raised on the program last night, and that is why I replied in specific terms. In general terms, there is, as I said in reply to the first question, an exchange of information with our friends and allies on intelligence and security matters. We hope that we are the beneficiaries of such an exchange when it does take place.