

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

**SURVEILLANCE OF PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS—ALLEGED DISCREPANCY
IN DATE WHEN PRIME MINISTER ISSUED ORDERS TO STOP**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister now that I can be heard. At the Prime Minister's press conference on October 28 he was asked if it was last week that he told the police to stop looking at the PQ. The Prime Minister said, "no" and then he went on to explain: It's back in '73 or '74 that I said "stop looking into the PQ".

My question is based on the letter which the Prime Minister mentioned a moment ago from General Dare to Colonel Bourne, dated February, 1976 wherein General Dare wrote to Colonel Bourne:

Please refer to my letter dated 13 June, 1975 advising that the Prime Minister has issued certain guidelines reiterating the security services inquiries with regard to the Parti Québécois.

Can the Prime Minister explain that discrepancy in dates?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess I can explain that if I said 1973 or 1974, and earlier today I said 1974 or 1975—

An hon. Member: It is a typographical error.

Mr. Trudeau:—I do not remember exactly the date when I saw the RCMP. I told the House that if it were relevant to the discussion, I would try to obtain it. I am sure the RCMP must have in their records a date on which the discussion took place, and I will undertake to give it to the House.

● (1452)

On the matter of the letter quoted by the hon. member for Yukon, if my memory is correct—and it may not be correct on that again—it was people on the other side of the House who were objecting at the time because we were not exercising sufficient surveillance of the PQ. Now, obviously they are complaining about the contrary.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**REASON FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTION TO STOP
SURVEILLANCE OF PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I think it becomes important that the Prime Minister present that date because it makes a difference as to when the instruction was issued to General Dare. However, there is an even more serious delay here. The letter was dated February of 1976, and it refers to a discussion between the Prime Minister and General Dare in mid-1975. General Dare apparently acted on the Prime Minister's instructions some eight months after he received them. Did the Prime Minister follow up on his instructions to General Dare to see if they were carried out? Can he tell us now why they were not carried out with more alacrity?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): This was discussed in some detail in the House when the matter of the leaked letter was discussed last session. I indicated at the time that this directive was based on an understanding that General Dare had formed at a cabinet discussion which he attended. There was a record of the decision of that cabinet discussion stating precisely the guidelines that the Solicitor General made public in the House on Friday. I repeat that these guidelines were issued as a result of information we had had previously—how many months previously I cannot remember and I cannot say, but it was information we had previously about the RCMP exercising surveillance of a political party. As soon as we heard that, we said "stop".

Then they asked, "Well, what is our mandate? If we can't exercise surveillance on political parties, what is our mandate?" I said, "Do you have a mandate? Have you one from the previous government?" It appeared there was no precise directive to the police. At that point in cabinet we went about writing a precise directive. I suppose it may have taken a matter of weeks or months before we got it into shape. It was communicated to the police in March, 1975. I believe that is the date. It was the result, I repeat, of—as far as I know—the first time the Government of Canada deciding that the security service needed some political control in a general sense and that they had to be given some general guidelines. Otherwise, they would be victims of the kind of innuendo we have been hearing from the other side in the past few days.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, because of the importance of the matter will the Prime Minister undertake to table the document "The Role, Tasks and Methods of the RCMP Security Service" as well as cabinet directive 35, which was the instrument giving effect to the cabinet decision on security policy announced in the House by the then Prime Minister on October 25, 1963?

Mr. Trudeau: Does that complete the list of documents of cabinet that the hon. member for Yukon would like to have?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

**REASON CABINET COMMITTEE UNAWARE OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL
ACTIVITIES—DIRECTIONS GIVEN SECURITY SERVICE**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I find it strange that since last Friday, during all of the discussions which have taken place in this House, the Prime Minister has not yet clarified the exact role of the cabinet committee which he chairs—and has chaired since becoming Prime Minister—on security and intelligence. I wonder if he can indicate how it was that so much activity could take place beneath this cabinet committee of which this committee was apparently unaware until some years after the incidents took place and whether we are supposed to believe that following the events of 1970, which the Prime Minister at the time described "an apprehended