

PROVISIONS STIPULATED IN LEGISLATION

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, as the Minister will know, all of the Attorneys-General of the Provinces have said that the Bill gives the SS carte blanche to break any law completely free from any independent, publicly accountable scrutiny or review. I take it that he disagrees with that. Will he tell us whether Clause 21 does not authorize law breaking? Would he also tell us in passing how, under his Bill, the Hugh Hambleton affair would have been handled any differently than it was at the time without the Bill?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Again, it is a reiteration of the first question. It does not authorize law-breaking. They have no immunity at all. There are some democratic countries where the security service in those countries is not subject to the rule of law and where they have immunity in court. We rejected that because we feel that, in a democratic society like Canada, those powers would be widely excessive. Therefore, we have confined them and have proposed that they be confined to exactly the same limited protection under the new Bill as they enjoy under the Criminal Code.

Another part of the Hon. Member's question concerned the Hugh Hambleton case, a case in which the relevance of the Official Secrets Act was being considered. The Official Secrets Act has not been changed by the Bill. It is a measure being reviewed by my colleague, the Minister of Justice and, in due course, amendments to that legislation will be brought forward.

* * *

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADIAN BILL OF RIGHTS—ABSENCE FROM DISPLAY WITHIN
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister as to why the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights which, since 1967, has been on constant display in one form or another to the public of Canada in the Parliament Buildings of Canada, is no longer on display in the Library of Parliament for the people of Canada.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I know of no action taken with regard to the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights. I have often referred to it as being the guarantee of property rights which I would like to see in the Canadian Constitution.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: The Party opposite is not prepared to cooperate in that regard. However, as far as the Bill is concerned, as far as it goes, it is a good Bill of Rights.

Oral Questions

REQUEST THAT BILL OF RIGHTS BE DISPLAYED

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): May I ask the Prime Minister, Madam Speaker, when the Bill will again be displayed to the public of Canada along with the Union Act, the Quebec Act, the Constitution Act of 1982, and the Flag Proclamation, which are now presently displayed? This is still a statute of Canada, and a very historic one.

● (1450)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, all statutes of Canada are not displayed, that I know of, in Parliament, except in the volumes that contain the statutes. I think that Mr. Diefenbaker himself very properly regretted that the climate in Canada at that time was such that his Bill of Rights could not be constitutionalized. I remember very clearly that he expressed those regrets in hearings before the House of Commons and the committee.

It is not a constitutional Bill of Rights. Perhaps that is the reason why it is not displayed with the other constitutional bills. I can assure the Hon. Member that I have no authority to decide whether or not the Bill shall be displayed in Parliament. That is not a matter for the Government, and the Hon. Member knows that.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED RED MEAT STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture who has been promising to reach a solution to what he calls provincial top loading before he will implement any red meat stabilization program. Can the Minister tell us why he is so insistent upon doing away with the provincial power to top load before he will agree to any stabilization program for red meats?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows as well as I, if he reads the record, that at one time all of the provincial Ministers said that they did not want any top loading.

At the present time the Canadian Cattlemen's Association does not want any top loading, as is the case with several other farm organizations. Some have some reservations. It causes inequity, inequality and economic disparity that one can hardly describe in the House in the short time one is given to answer a question. I would say that the Hon. Member himself knows what economic disparity it causes. For instance, the Province of Alberta could have one of the richest top loading programs, the Province of Saskatchewan probably second, and some could not afford any.

Mr. Althouse: I was pleased to hear the Minister outline his philosophical reasons for his commitment to attempt to wipe out top loading.