

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

made with deference, and supported I believe by precedents. It was that questions might be asked of the Prime Minister or of the Acting Prime Minister whether a statement made outside the house by a cabinet minister represented government policy. Unless the President of the Privy Council is the Acting Prime Minister this morning I doubt whether the right hon. gentleman's question can be directed to him.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** On a question of privilege, everybody knew this matter would be raised, and regardless of the importance of other events the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs should have been here.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** In their absence I will not ask the minister whether he was uttering public policy. I will simply ask him whether there has been a new code of cabinet ethics—

**An hon. Member:** Cheap.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—and whether it was under this new code that the minister made those outrageous statements.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I regret that the second question is very much like the first, and is subject to the same procedural limitation.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether a copy of the speech made by the President of the Privy Council was given to the Prime Minister before it was made, and whether any attempt was made by the Prime Minister's office to get in touch with the President of the Privy Council before he delivered it.

**Hon. Robert Winters (Acting Prime Minister):** I can only repeat that the Prime Minister's Office and the Secretary of State for External Affairs told me the same thing, that a copy of the speech had not been seen by them before it was delivered.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** In view of the fact that the Acting Prime Minister has informed the house that he discussed the matter with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, can he tell us whether the statement made by the President of the Privy Council represented government policy?

**Mr. Winters:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs has stated government policy on this issue as clearly as I can recall any policy—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Winters:** I think the position of the government has been made abundantly clear.

**Mr. Lewis:** That was not my question.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Acting Prime Minister, in his argument and in what he has just now answered, mentioned that he had a conversation with the Prime Minister, would he now tell us whether in the conversation with the Prime Minister and the President of the Privy Council there was mention that the President of the Privy Council is going to resign again.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the contents of the Registrar General's "once upon a time" speech to the convention of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists in Montreal last Saturday, would the Acting Prime Minister inform the house whether it now is the government's intention to announce foreign policy in parables?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is what we have been getting for the last couple of years.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think it is a supplementary question.

[Later:]

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce referring to his previous remark that later this day he might ask for permission to revert to motions so he might make a more complete statement. As acting minister, at the same time will he arrange to have the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs here to clarify the other matter in respect of Viet Nam?

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Viet Nam matter is disposed of so far as this sitting of the house is concerned, but I will convey the hon. member's question to the Prime Minister.

**Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, can the Acting Prime Minister indicate to the house whether muzzles have been distributed among the cabinet ministers until the Prime Minister does return.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.