

Oral Questions

view of the unanimous support given to the Quebec proposal by the minister's cousins, that is the Liberal members of Quebec, would the Minister of Finance have the honesty to withdraw the word "separatist", to answer all Quebecers—since all parties unanimously reject that word of the Minister of Finance—and to be fair, if only out of respect for his own province?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, during three weeks we have had discussions with the other ministers of finance of Canada—

Mr. La Salle: Yes or no?

Mr. Chrétien:—and we have made proposals—

Mr. La Salle: It is a betrayal of the interests of Quebec. If I were you, I would feel embarrassed. It is a conspiracy.

Mr. Chrétien: And during three weeks we have in good faith put forward proposals to the nine other ministers of finance. We have made commitments. Mr. Parizeau has decided he wanted something completely different. He can put what he wants in his budget. As for me, I say the Canadian government is prepared to pay the \$185 million if the Quebec government agrees to reduce by 2 per cent, without any cost to the Quebec treasury, the sales tax on other items in Quebec. Thus Quebec consumers would benefit from our measures as do all other consumers in the rest of Canada.

Mr. La Salle: I would be ashamed.

Mr. Ouellet: Tell us what Mr. Lévesque promised you, Mr. LaSalle!

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● (1152)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ATTENDANCE OF IDI AMIN AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. There being widespread objection across Canada to Idi Amin being present at the Commonwealth Games, will the Deputy Prime Minister advise whether, in view of his diabolical, murderous conduct, he has been informed he would not be a welcome visitor to Canada during those games?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether there has been any direct communication with Idi Amin on this particular point. I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs has already expressed the view that he would not be particularly welcome in Canada. However, as the

[Mr. La Salle.]

right hon. member knows, Idi Amin has made it a point to escalate his interest in these events, saying he will attend in order to gather international publicity, so probably the most constructive thing we can all do is to forget about him.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: There has been too much forgotten about him already. I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has he brought to the attention of Idi Amin, either officially or diplomatically, the fact that he will not be welcome in Canada, with his record which shocks the conscience of all people who believe in democracy?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, that question was physically directed at me. I do not have responsibility for matters concerning the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I will take notice of the question.

An hon. Member: Turn it over to the McDonald commission.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I was quite surprised at the answer of the Deputy Prime Minister when he said the Secretary of State for External Affairs had answered this problem. I now ask him this question: Will he convince the Government of Canada to let Idi Amin know he is not wanted here, as he was told in respect of the prime ministers' conference in London last year.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I think the Secretary of State for External Affairs has already commented on this particular point along the lines of the answer I gave. I believe the right hon. member suggested that we ought to make it clear that we do not welcome him to these games. I think I have already made that clear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I don't think so; there is too much pussyfooting here.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

DESTRUCTION OF RCMP SURVEILLANCE REPORTS

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. He informed us yesterday that presumably the 24 monthly reports covering the two-year period during which the present Minister of Supply and Services was solicitor general were destroyed. Can he explain today how a document of this nature, a report prepared exclusively for the Solicitor General, covering very important activities by a unit for which he is responsible, could be destroyed as a matter of routine procedure?