

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY**SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BY COMMUNIST
CHINESE**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I direct it to the Minister of Justice. In light of suggestions by Cardinal Yu-pin of Formosa, made yesterday in Washington to the effect that "there are centres of communist Chinese subversive activity in Canada" and that this activity will intensify if Canada should succeed in recognizing Red China, will the minister assure the house that he will look into these allegations, advise the house if they have any foundation, and thus relieve fears and anxieties which have resulted from the remarks I have just alluded to?

**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ROYAL
COMMISSION**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. On a number of occasions he informed the house that an expurgated edition—and I use the term without being in any way offensive—of the report of the Royal Commission on security would be tabled in the house. On a number of occasions he told us that the report was to be tabled soon, and that it was to be translated. Is such an expurgated edition of the report now being printed and if so, how soon may we have it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I assume the house will have guessed that the task of expurgating a work of such dimensions is difficult and gives rise to many discussions, because the expurgators have to proceed in such a way that the authors may still lay claims to their work. The only problem involved here is one of national security, and the expurgating is being carried out with that in mind. I must report to the house that after several months of labour we have not yet arrived at any conclusive or, shall we say, definitive expurgated edition. I realize that the house is entitled to an explanation sooner or later, and I undertake to report to the house in due course.

I do not mind these constant questions because we are very much aware of the need to proceed with this matter. The difficulties are those which I have indicated and have nothing to do with governmental interest. They have to do with the problem of national security; and this is the only aspect causing delay.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I gather from the Prime Minister's explanation that there is disagreement between officials of the government and members of the royal commission as to what should or should not be expurgated? If that is the situation, should not the opinion of the members of the committee be listened to by the government?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. I believe the hon. member is referring to the members of the royal commission itself?

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Mr. Trudeau: If that is the question, then the disagreement has not reached that stage. It is still officials and ministers themselves who are trying to arrive at a version which they have reason to think will be accepted by the commission. Following that, as I say, we will have to come to the house either with a refusal of the commissioners to approve it, or with an explanation that we do not even want to proceed. There has been no conflict, if that is the member's question, between the government and the commission members.

Mr. Lewis: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact one assumes the report will deal with all sorts of matters that are now current, such as eavesdropping, wire-tapping, the use of electronic devices, the extent to which public servants should have certain rights so as not to be—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask his question?

Mr. Lewis: I will, Mr. Speaker. In view of that fact, is it not possible to expedite the preparation of a report which would not infringe on national security, instead of taking all this time?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If the government wanted to deal only with the questions mentioned by the hon. member, perhaps we could proceed more expeditiously; but that is not the name of the operation. We are trying to adhere as much as possible to the report of the commissioners themselves, and very large parts of the report do not deal with these matters but with ways used by the government to protect its security both in the national and international areas. The difficulty is in making sure we do not publish information which would permit the enemies of Canada for \$1.50 to buy information about our own security services.