

be making its core report by the end of the summer, and its final report and be winding up, if they can maintain their schedule, by the end of this year.

As to the evidence of the desirability and the need for letter-opening under controlled circumstances and with proper safeguards, I hope to be able within the next few days to make the kind of presentation that hon. members would like on that subject.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): My supplementary question, Madam Speaker, is to the right hon. Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Justice, who is, I am sure, as concerned as we are on this side of the House about upholding the rule of law. Will the right hon. Prime Minister tell the House whether he intends to recommend to his Minister of Justice the prosecution of those members of the RCMP who have authorized the breaking of the law, section 43 of the Post Office Act, in the illegal opening of first-class mail?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I will be happy to discuss this matter with the Minister of Justice. I am sure he will want to follow the practice of our previous government; that is to say, that whenever we have evidence of any breaking of the law by an RCMP officer, through the McDonald commission or in any other way, we would communicate that information forthwith to the attorney general of a province whose responsibility it was to enforce the criminal law. I am sure the Minister of Justice will continue to do the same thing.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. COSSITT—MOTIONS UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order, about a 30-second point of order concerning the matter of motions under Standing Order 43 in general and which is brought to my mind by the motion I introduced on the subject of Mr. Kenneth Taylor earlier this afternoon. I am asking respectfully for clarification from the Chair in regard to one specific point about Standing Order 43.

I was under the distinct impression that the slight negative shaking of the head by such a person as the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) does not constitute a legitimate “no” and that an audible verbal “no” must be heard before a motion of that nature can be ruled out of order. If it is in order, I would like to ask if I can have the unanimous consent of the House to revert to Standing Order 43 so that members of the House will have an opportunity to prove specifically that the old saying that a prophet is without honour in his own land does not apply to Mr. Kenneth Taylor.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, may I say on that point of order, since the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Cossitt) has mentioned my

name, that I can assure him I said nothing. But I can inform him of what was going on in my mind at that point, and this may guide you, Madam Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Subliminal perception.

Mr. Trudeau: We have here an example of where a good motion might be proposed by a member on either side of the House and at times the government might say “no” to that motion, not because it disagrees with the substance of the motion but perhaps because we do not find it opportune to discuss the motion at that particular time; or, alternatively, the motion calls for very intricate considerations, and that is the case in this matter.

The Order of Canada, I happen to know—and I am sure the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) knows the same—was set up so as to ensure that it would be detached from the political process, so as to ensure that the Order of Canada would be given upon the direction of a committee chaired by the Governor General and his representative, the Chief Justice of Canada, in a way that politicians in particular, but also other pressure groups, would not be able to command upon whom the order would devolve. I feel that before issuing an order from the House to that very select committee chaired by the Governor General and the Chief Justice we should consider whether or not it is within our prerogative to do so. I would submit that it is not at this time.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I would simply like to say on this point of order that I would not at all contest the views and the testimony put forward by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I suggest that he would do well to reread the motion which was put forward. He would find that the motion which was presented to this House simply suggested that there be a respectful request by this chamber to the Governor General to consider the matter. If he would reread that motion instead of reacting automatically to motions put forward by members whom he might not personally like, the procedures of this House could progress.

Madam Speaker: From where I sit in this chair I am more aware of the noes that I hear—and I did hear some noes. Therefore, the time for presenting motions under Standing Order 43 having expired, we will now proceed to orders of the day.