

to table copies of correspondence between Mr. Roblin, Premier of Manitoba, and myself, concerning power development of the Nelson river. Mr. Roblin is doing likewise today in Winnipeg.

[English]

EDUCATION

QUEBEC—TELEGRAM FROM FEDERAL MINISTERS RESPECTING GRANT ALLOCATION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry asking whether the most unusual action taken by him and the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Turner) yesterday in connection with the government of Quebec, as to what that government ought to do in the field of education, however justifiable the objectives were, was taken as members of the government or on their own?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on behalf of myself and my colleague, a telegram was sent jointly by myself and the member of parliament for St. Lawrence-St. George as members of parliament for two ridings on the island of Montreal, to two members of the provincial legislature from the island of Montreal, to seek to obtain their assistance in finding out whether something can be done for the university of which I am a graduate.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Was that done with the approval of the cabinet or did the minister do it on his own? No matter how justifiable the objective, does the minister think this is constitutionally proper?

Mr. Drury: Perhaps this is slightly argumentative—

Mr. Diefenbaker: No, it is not argumentative; it is factual.

Mr. Drury:—but I do think it is constitutionally proper. As I explained to the right hon. gentleman, this telegram was sent and signed by me in my capacity as a member of parliament and a graduate of McGill university.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Starr: You are a member of the cabinet. Have you got a dual role?

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Minister of Industry's telegram—incidentally, I commend him for defending the cause of minorities—would he and his colleague, in the same spirit, consider sending telegrams to the nine other premiers to point out discrimination against French Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry. Did not the telegram contain information about grants from the National Research Council, was not the minister speaking partly in his capacity as the minister responsible for the National Research Council grants, and will the minister table the telegram?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has answered two questions along the same line. I have some doubts as to whether they are proper questions for orders of the day because to some extent I suggest the minister was not asked to answer a question in his capacity as Minister of Industry.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No.

Mr. Speaker: In view of this it seems the question was not entirely in order. In any event, I suggest that the minister has replied to the question as posed and perhaps we might go on to another matter.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of my intention to debate this matter at ten o'clock on Monday evening.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, one more supplementary question, because I think this has a bearing on the matter. The minister has replied that he sent the telegram in his capacity as a member of parliament from Montreal island. What significance, then, do we attach to the fact that no other Liberal member from Montreal island was concerned with this telegram but only two cabinet members?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a proper question.

[Later:]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in connection with an earlier question, I ask the Minister of Industry whether he will table that communication which he and the Minister without Portfolio sent? Second, I ask the