

**Mr. Trudeau:** Who approached me about approaching the judge? No, I indicated that I did not know the Minister of Public Works had approached the judge.

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—BASIS ON WHICH MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS INTERVENED WITH JUDGE HUGESSEN

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like then to address a question to the Minister of Public Works. Yesterday the minister once again raised, as a means of avoiding answering questions directed to him with regard to any instructions received from or discussions held with cabinet colleagues, the suggestion that there is privilege in this whole area on the basis of Privy Council confidentiality. Does the minister take the position that his intervention on behalf of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was a matter of governmental business? I hope the answer will not be in the affirmative.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the circumstances surrounding the conversation I think I would continue to say I would prefer not to answer specific questions and not to have the inquiry conducted piecemeal in the House.

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—KNOWLEDGE OF PRIME MINISTER OF CONTENT OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN MINISTER AND JUDGE HUGESSEN

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister about a matter which is not before the chief justice of Quebec.

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** Yesterday the Prime Minister informed the House that he had received an explanation of what was said by his Minister of Public Works in relation to this matter, so I now ask the Prime Minister, did the version of what transpired, indicated to him by the Minister of Public Works, include the allegation that the Minister of Public Works attempted to ask the justice if an apology and retraction by his cabinet colleague would affect the result of the determination of the court? That is in respect of a conversation between the minister and the Prime Minister. That is not before the chief justice of Quebec.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, but that is between the minister and myself. I want to make it very clear, if I want to enlarge the area of suspicion, that I also talked to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs about the matter which was before the court. I am sure he consulted other of his colleagues than the Minister of Public Works.

● (1430)

**An hon. Member:** That is not the question.

**Mr. Trudeau:** What he told me in this conversation and what he asked me is not a matter I intend to put before the House.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Why not?

*Oral Questions*

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I am sure hon. members opposite understand why not. They are members of parliament. Surely, it must happen that they have perhaps constituents who approach them about a matter that is before the courts—

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

**Mr. Trudeau:**—and who ask for advice about a matter which is before the courts.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I would not expect a member of parliament to tell this House what he was asked.

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

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

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS BEEN INTERROGATED BY CHIEF JUSTICE OF QUEBEC

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In a matter such as this which cannot possibly affect government business—

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

**Mr. Lawrence:**—but which affects the honour and integrity of the caucus—

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

**Mr. Lawrence:**—sir, my appeal to you is that in respect of the privileges of this House how can a member of the Crown—

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

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think we have to be clear that if there is some appeal in respect of the privileges of the House, that will have to be heard at three o'clock. If the hon. member has a supplementary question he can put it now.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Speaker, in order to differentiate this whole matter may I ask the Minister of Public Works whether the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec has yet interrogated him on what he said to the Associate Chief Justice of that court.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Did you say no? That is the whole point.

**Mr. Sharp:** What point?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

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