

*Oral Questions*

explain whether he was able to determine if that individual knew about the illegal break-in and, if so, why he withheld the information from the then solicitor general. In view of the fact that the Minister of Supply and Services has stated that the reason he did not even reply to the APLQ's letter alleging RCMP involvement in the illegal break-in was that the matter fell under provincial jurisdiction and that the incident was being investigated by the Montreal police, has the minister had any plausible explanation from his colleague as to why he did not follow the proper course of action by replying to the APLQ's charges with a letter stating that these extremely serious charges were being investigated by the Montreal police?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, once again I believe that if the hon. member goes back to my statement of last Friday he will find that my statement is very explicit indeed in that regard.

**Mr. Beatty:** It is not at all.

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**DOMINION DAY**

## PROPOSAL THAT LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the celebration of Dominion Day and—

**Some hon. Members:** Canada Day!

**Mr. Alexander:** He said Dominion Day.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—it is a very commendable course which has been arranged. We started it in 1957 and this is going to be the greatest on record. So that it will represent all of Canada and not be regarded as in any way partisan, and in view of the fact that the Governor General, under all the circumstances, will not be able to make a speech to the people of Canada on behalf of the Queen, would the Prime Minister consider having, along with himself, the leaders of the other parties speak for a few minutes on a national broadcast so as to bring about a sense of national consciousness and unity?

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

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will gladly look into that suggestion. I confess I am not aware of the program for July 1, but I will look at that. I would also underline to the right hon. gentleman that the House leaders of the various parties are consulting each other as to the possibility of putting two days aside next week to have a debate on national unity.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Have it on Dominion Day?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I stand corrected; the two days would not be a debate, it would be rather a collective contribu-

[Mr. Beatty.]

tion on the subject of national unity. The right hon. member talked about a broadcast. I must remind him that we on this side have been trying to get broadcasting of the proceedings of the House for a couple of years, but it is his colleagues who have been opposing that.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, if evasiveness were a virtue the Prime Minister, in the answer he endeavoured to give me, would be a saint. I am simply asking him not to have it as a partisan thing with him speaking as the leader of this nation, which he is not—

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—either on this occasion or on any occasion. I am simply asking the Prime Minister whether, to make this national event representative of all political parties which are represented in the House, he will have them with him to speak on that occasion—

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

**Mr. MacFarlane:** Who is your leader?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the right hon. member might be permitted to conclude his question.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the unanimity with which the orchestrated chorus opposite interrupt indicates that they think the Prime Minister is the leader of this nation.

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

● (1440)

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, in this great debate—

**Mr. Paproski:** You are our saviour, Pierre.

**Mr. Hees:** How was it in that manger?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, in this great debate about who is the leader of the nation, I suppose I could do nothing better than take a leaf out of the right hon. gentleman's book and see who on July 1, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961 spoke for the nation on what they had.

**An hon. Member:** Nobody did.

**Mr. Trudeau:** If nobody did, I am disappointed. I would have hoped in those days—

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I suppose that was the trouble with our history during that period—nobody was leading the nation.

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

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I see our excellent Secretary of State trying to provide the answer to this question. As he is responsible for the