

Inquiries of the Ministry

statement made by the hon. gentleman. I would ask Your Honour, as custodian of the rights of parliament, to examine the record, and having done so to make the appropriate decision.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I said a few minutes ago what I think about people who twist words, and if the Leader of the Opposition wants to put himself in that position he knows what I think of him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to enter into any controversy, but subterfuge such as that is no answer to tinkering with the record on a material matter, I therefore ask you, sir, in your position as Speaker to look into this and to report to the house tomorrow. Certainly the alteration is a material one and is designed to conceal a remark which should not have been made.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the question which the hon. member for Ontario has raised, he quoted from what are customarily referred to as the "blues", and the Leader of the Opposition also referred to the "blues". You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that when we were sitting on the other side of the house your immediate predecessors, and I believe even those before that, made a ruling that the "blues" are not to be quoted from or used in discussions of *Hansard* in this house. That ruling has always been observed up to this time, and I would ask Your Honour, when you are considering this question, to rule whether it is in order to bring the blues into the house and quote from them as evidence of changes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, the rule which was made is this; that in the course of debate you cannot have sent in to you the blues and use them. This is not in the course of debate; this is an argument based on an alteration which, unless the blues were available, could not be brought before the house.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I happened to be one of those fortunate enough to be present in the house when the minister made the remark yesterday, and the hon. member for Ontario was correct, I believe, when he interpolated "The minister says 'What's a hundred million?'" But I might add that cold print does not give the feeling or the tone of

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

what was said, and I understood the Minister of Finance in this sense to be saying "What's a hundred million to the Leader of the Opposition?"

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fisher: I do not suggest that this is right or that an intervention should come from a member in his seat and be so satirical or cynical about other members of the house; but as one objective observer I think this was the gist of the remark. I suggest, Mr. Speaker that this is a tempest in a teapot and that we forget about it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in view of the interpretation and the interpolation of the hon. member, I suggest that he restrict his interpretation of intonations to his column in the press.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, on the matter which is before the house I should like to bring the attention of the house to the fact that the *Globe and Mail* in its column "Commons Debate", which is taken, I am sure, from the blues or otherwise it could not get into the morning paper, reports the Minister of Finance as saying: "What is one hundred million?"

Mr. Jean-Pierre Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker on the same point of privilege, I was in the house when this discussion took place, and I do not know how the Leader of the Opposition can be sure of the words the Minister of Finance used, because he did not hear the phrase himself; it was brought to his attention by the hon. member for Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that we have had ample discussion of this point and it is the responsibility of the Chair to do its best to try and settle it, which we will.

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I wonder whether, after all this discussion, the Minister of Finance will tell us what is \$100 million?

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to describe what happened. The Leader of the Opposition, as I remember it, was quoting figures of \$150 million and \$250 million, I think it was. Anyway, it is all in *Hansard* and the hon. member can refer to it himself.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was quoting the Liberal party's promises.

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of personal privilege. A while ago the Minister of Finance in his reply