

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VISITS BY FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE—ARRANGEMENTS TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It deals with the security of visitors to Canada, particularly in view of the imminent visit to Canada of President Tito. I put this question to the Prime Minister in all seriousness. In light of the fact that the federal government is the guarantor and ensurer of security of all foreign visitors, prime ministers and heads of state, as was the case with the recent visit of Premier Kosygin, what liaison, what instructions and what plans were worked out between this government, as part of its responsibility, the city of Toronto and other cities in Canada to safeguard and protect the civil rights of peaceful demonstrators and observers, particularly in the city of Toronto? I ask the question because this matter is the responsibility of the federal government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope the minister will reply briefly because this appears to be a very general question. It seems to me that it calls for an answer which should normally be made on motions. If the Prime Minister can reply briefly, the Chair will recognize him.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can be very brief because I do not know the details of the arrangements which were worked out. I do know, of course, that there was contact. I can discuss the matter with the Solicitor General to see if there is anything further on which we can report to the House. But certainly the point of view of peaceful demonstration was foremost in everyone's mind, and wherever we were able to allow demonstrations to take place we certainly did not intervene. But we also had to be wary of what the Leader of the Opposition himself, on Monday of last week, termed the dangers of a breakdown in security and we tried to keep a neat balance between the two.

Mr. Woolliams: May I ask a short supplementary question. In light of the alleged brutality which took place by the Toronto police with reference to children and women, and the responsibility of the federal government in this respect—and I appreciate the Prime Minister's answer today—would he be prepared to make a statement at some future time informing the House who pays the city of Toronto and other cities for the security which they undertake?

[Later:]

Mr. Woolliams: In light of the fact that an interruption occurred when the Prime Minister was about to answer, may I put this question seriously to him. May I say, first of all, that I appreciate his courteous answer. Would he at some future time make a statement in the House on this matter and advise us what levels of government paid for the security for Premier Kosygin and will pay for the security of other dignitaries who may visit Canada at the request of this government?

Mr. Trudeau: As I said in my previous answer, I will certainly discuss this series of questions with the Solicitor General. It would seem to me that this is the kind of question which usually appears on the order paper. The

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hon. member might want to consider asking the questions in an orderly form on the order paper and we will give an answer in due course.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member might be allowed to ask a further supplementary question, but I have been trying for almost 40 minutes to invite hon. members to proceed a little more quickly in the question period because we are running short of time.

Mr. Woolliams: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. Before I put the question may I say that I think security is an important matter and questions concerning it should not be placed on the order paper. This is an important matter because women and children have been run over by police officers, as alleged in the newspapers. I ask the Prime Minister again, in light of the responsibility of the federal government would he check into this important matter with the Solicitor General and make a statement in the House?

Mr. Trudeau: I said in my answer that I would check into the matter. I did not undertake to make a statement in the House. I do not agree with the hon. member that if a matter is important it should not appear on the order paper.

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CRIMINAL CODE

INQUIRY AS TO DEBATE ON ABORTION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that last year 1,649 Canadian women went to the state of New York to have abortions performed, will the government now—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. MacInnis: As usual, Mr. Speaker, we get the snickers. Will the government now consider honouring its promise of a year ago in the Speech from the Throne and set a date in this session for a debate on the abortion legislation in this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have answered this question before. I can only repeat the answer in like terms, that in the Speech from the Throne a year ago last month or this month we said we wanted to deal with many things in this session which was supposed to finish at the end of June. We are now several months beyond that date. Since I cannot guarantee the way in which the House will meet all the problems that have been put before it, I cannot guarantee that we will have time to deal with this particular matter before the end of this session. It really depends on when the session ends and on how fast we deal with matters. I do admit that we made the commitment in the Speech from the Throne to deal with this and several other matters which have not yet come before the House, and if we do not deal with them it is because the opposition has not given us the time.