

Oral Questions

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, one of the amendments was designed to require more precise identification of which telephones were to be tapped, in affidavits requesting wiretaps. That amendment is, therefore, a response to the question the hon. member raises.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN MINISTRY

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he is contemplating or anticipating any immediate changes in the composition of his ministry?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is always a possibility, and I believe the House is usually informed when it happens.

Mr. Clark: Can the Prime Minister indicate whether it is the intention of the present Solicitor General of Canada to make a statement on motions, or to raise a question of privilege at the end of this question period, which might relate in some way to the composition of the ministry?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the question period ends in 16 minutes, and I think it is not too much to ask that the Leader of the Opposition wait for that.

Mr. Clark: Let me be more direct. Has the Prime Minister any reason to believe that he may be receiving, and that there may be communicated to the House of Commons today, an indication of the intention of the present Solicitor General of Canada to resign from his position?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is obviously basing his question on rumour. If the rumour is founded, he will know very, very soon. If it is not founded, I think it is a mistake to ask the question.

Mr. Clark: Does the Prime Minister have any information in his possession now, relative to the composition of his ministry, which will be released to the House of Commons at a later time? It is the business and the right of this House to know when the matter is raised.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, of course the House of Commons will know if the Solicitor General raises a question of privilege. If he has such a question, I suggest that he be allowed to speak for himself. I do not think it is too much to ask the House to wait for 15 minutes.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Leggatt.]

MISREPRESENTATION IN HOUSE BY HON. MEMBER—NEED FOR RESIGNATION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister related to this matter and to the questions initiated by the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot in light of recent revelations. Is it the policy of the government that a finding by a commission of inquiry into the RCMP that a member of the government, no matter how eminent, may knowingly have misrepresented facts in this House would be a ground for calling for the resignation of that minister, pursuant to the Profumo incident in the United Kingdom?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is not only hypothetical but it is absolutely unfounded and, I suggest, malicious.

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CANADIAN CULTURE

GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING FEATURE FILM INDUSTRY

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. On October 27 of last year, in response to a question concerning the feature film industry, the Secretary of State replied that distribution was key to a resolution of the serious problem facing that industry. He indicated that he hoped to make an announcement of major government policy before the end of the year. Since that announcement has not yet been made, can the minister indicate the reason for the delay? Can he say that he will make such an announcement, that when it is made it will be made in the House, and that it will be more than just a continuation of the present voluntary agreements which are obviously hopelessly inadequate?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker, policy decisions have been taken. There is a minor amount of redrafting to be done. I am waiting for an appropriate occasion to make an announcement of the policy which the government intends to implement. It will be much more extensive than a continuation of the voluntary agreements which the hon. member described.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I hope that assurance from the minister means he will be making a statement in this House and that he will make it shortly, because there is a good deal of uncertainty and fear in the industry. Since it appears that the key element in the minister's new policy may be a voluntary agreement with American distributors to reinvest a portion of their profits in film production here, is the minister assured that this will not undermine the creative and financial control by Canadians of their own film industry, similar to what happened in Great Britain or to what exists in our recording industry? In other words, will this measure promote film-making by Canadians, for Canadians, rather than just bringing about greater loss of autonomy and cultural identity in a very important industry in this country?

Mr. Roberts: Yes, Mr. Speaker.