

*May 5/64.*

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REPLY TO POSSIBLE QUESTION

Qu: Have the new security procedures announced on October 25th, 1963 been put into effect?

Ans: A number of new security procedures were announced in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice at the introduction of the 1963-64 estimates for the Department of Justice on October 25th, 1963. On October 28th, 1963, the Prime Minister replied to a question by the Member for Winnipeg North, saying that the new procedures would be embodied in written regulations and in written form, that he would look into the question whether they could be made available to the House, but that it would be undesirable to make these regulations until the debate had been concluded.

The debate on the estimates of the Department of Justice was concluded on December 23rd, 1963, without further reference to matters of security. Consequently, on December 27th, 1963, the new procedures were put into effect through the notification in writing of all departments and agencies of the government.

(Should a supplementary question be asked about the extension of these new procedures to defence industry, it might be stated that "the Department of Defence Production has put forward a number of proposals which are at present under study". I have just received a draft paper from that Department which will be considered by the Security Panel at its next meeting, which I hope to arrange within the next week or 10 days.)

(On the question whether the new regulations, as set out in Cabinet Directive No. 35, should be made available to the House, it is my view that no useful purpose would be served by so doing. The procedures as announced deserve a period of trial, and if any

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person feels that they have not served him fairly, the matter can then be raised and discussed. In fact, since the new procedures have come into effect, not one case has been referred to the Review Board of the Security Panel for advice as to whether or not dismissal would be justified.)

D.F.W.

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