FINANCE

TABLING OF TARIFF BOARD REPORT ON KNITTED OUTER GARMENTS

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, in accordance with Section 6 of the Tariff Board Act I should like to table copies in both English and French of the report of the Tariff Board respecting knitted outer garments, Reference No. 145, together with a transcript of the proceedings at the public hearings held by the board. Any interested parties who wish to comment on this report should submit their views promptly to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

[Translation]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT

MEASURE TO CHANGE NAME OF CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Gérald Laniel (Beauharnois) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-178, respecting the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

• (2:20 p.m.) [English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—DETENTIONS BEYOND SEVEN DAYS
—ACCESS TO COUNSEL—INDEPENDENT COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether he can now tell the House how many of the 138 persons detained under the War Measures Act regulations have been detained for longer than seven days at the request of the Minister of Justice of Quebec?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I was talking to the Attorney General of Quebec about 25 minutes ago. Because of other pressing matters he tells me he has not been able to compile the statistics but hopes to get them to me later in the afternoon. I apologize to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of complaints from the Quebec Bar that access to counsel has been denied prisoners held under the war measures regulations and in view of the sort of suspicions this kind of complaint engenders, will the Minister of Justice assure the House that the government will take steps promptly to guarantee that prisoners have access to counsel? I remind the minister that his government has the responsibility to ensure this in that it is his government that issued the regulations that permitted this to happen.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I shall repeat what I said. It is true that the regulations issued

Inquiries of the Ministry

from this government, but the administration of justice under the regulations, as is the case under the Criminal Code, devolves upon the responsibility of the Attorney General of Quebec. It was to the Attorney General of Quebec that the Bar of Quebec made its submissions, and I feel he is perfectly capable of responding to those submissions and handling the situation as justice demands.

An hon. Member: They felt there was no use sending them to you.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, may I remind the Minister of Justice that it is his government which is responsible for this situation and that the responsibility cannot be sloughed off on the government of Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I therefore ask the minister whether the government will appoint a commission, as was done even in wartime by a previous Liberal government—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: —to examine into possible abuses regarding searches, arrests and detentions in all parts of the country? Will the ministers of this government accept their responsibility, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The government is accepting its responsibility fully, but we understand how a federal state operates a little better than the Leader of the Opposition does.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): A commission along the lines—

An hon. Member: Heil Hitler!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): —referred to by the Leader of the Opposition has already been appointed by the Attorney General of Quebec.

Mr. Stanfield: What about the other provinces?

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. member for Prince Albert on a supplementary.

INFORMATION LEADING TO INVOKING OF WAR MEASURES ACT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I do not know whether this is exactly a supplementary, Your Honour, but it arises out of the motion proposed by the hon. member for Egmont. It has to do with information which has been denied the House of Commons. I ask the Prime Minister whether he has seen the report of the interview of the mayor of Montreal who was quoted as saying that the revolution was started and would have proceeded when the War Measures Act was brought into effect and, furthermore, that the provisional government that was to be set up by some "well-meaning" people in