

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** The two letters in question which coincidentally or concurrently arrived in Ottawa—in any way prompted by a request from the federal government for such letters?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, there had been a great deal of consultation between the three levels of government in the days preceding the proclamation of the War Measures Act, and the government of Quebec, the administration in Montreal and our own government were very much concerned with the question of whether or not it would be necessary to bring new criminal powers to bear for the administration of justice in the province of Quebec. I believe it is fair to say all governments were reluctant to do so, but that the date was one which was determined by the date on those letters. It was a decision of the province of Quebec to choose that particular time and to send us the letter at that particular time. When we received it, we decided to act.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Was there any suggestion by the federal government that the letters should be sent to the government of Canada asking it to act, since the two letters seem to have arrived at about the same time?

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is very understandable, Mr. Speaker, since—I repeat—there was constant consultation between the two governments and the city of Montreal. There was, I repeat, a reluctance on the part of all governments, and particularly on our part, to invoke these special measures, but there was a point in time where this crisis did build up, and where the facts that I have repeated to this House became even more important. The dangers of turmoil and confusion in the province of Quebec were even greater, and it was at that point that the letters were sent and we acted.

[Translation]

WAR MEASURES ACT—RIGHT TO COUNSEL AFTER ARREST

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member from Lafontaine wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Georges-C. Lachance (Lafontaine):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the Prime Minister.

I would ask him if, under the War Measures Act and the special regulations, the right of an individual arrested or jailed to be represented by counsel, as soon as possible after his arrest, has been suspended?

**Mr. Lewis:** The answer is yes.

[English]

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker, even though the hon. member is asking for a legal opinion, but I was forestalled by the hon. member for York South.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

APPREHENDED INSURRECTION—INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO ASCERTAIN FACTS AND INFORM PUBLIC

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the continuing concern in the country for a full and complete statement on the nature of the apprehended insurrection, are the Prime Minister and his government giving consideration to the establishment of an independent commission that would be able to ascertain the facts related to this apprehended insurrection on an objective basis and present them to the public in such a way as to make all the facts clear to them?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. I repeat for the umpteenth time that the facts on which we acted are known to the people. If the politicians of distant provinces are not aware of them, perhaps they should ask their colleagues in the province of Quebec to explain them.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to whom the Prime Minister was referring in his answer. I directed the question to him because there seems to be some confusion within his own cabinet with respect to this information.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary I would like to ask the Prime Minister.

Is he aware of René Levesque's *Hallucination* program and does he intend to take it into consideration?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I never heard of it, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

WAR MEASURES ACT—LEGALITY OF FINGERPRINTING OF THOSE ARRESTED

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary was addressed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice yesterday by way of notice. Since those who were arrested under the War Measures Act appear to have been fingerprinted and photographed and none of them has been charged with any offence, has the minister called to the attention of the authorities in Quebec the fact that there is no justification for such fingerprinting under the Identification of Criminals Act unless charges are laid?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the words in that statute speak for themselves, and the hon. member's submission has been transmitted.