

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Attorney General of Canada received a telephone call from the Deputy Attorney General of Quebec asking him for the potential aid of the R.C.M.P. and the Canadian Armed Forces, in the event that violence at McGill University were to get out of the control of the provincial and municipal authorities. The situation is now being negotiated between the Department of the Attorney General of Quebec and the R.C.M.P., and the Canadian Armed Forces.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister intend to advise the R.C.M.P. to extend its help to the Quebec provincial police?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, this matter is strictly the R.C.M.P.'s concern and comes under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Solicitor General of Canada, whereas the other matter is the responsibility of the Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a further supplementary question.

Since several other ministers are concerned, does he intend, in his capacity as Attorney General and Minister of Justice, to request the R.C.M.P. to second the Quebec provincial police tomorrow night at McGill University?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We are always available, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

OIL**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE STUDY OF
CANADIAN POLICY**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources with reference to petroleum. In view of the appointment by President Nixon of a task force headed by one of his ministers to conduct an extensive review of all United States oil import arrangements, will the minister say what special arrangements, if any, are being made for the consideration of Canadian policy and, specifically, will the government now act on the suggestion of the

[Mr. Rondeau.]

Leader of the Opposition that a standing committee of this house inquire publicly into the need for a new and expansive oil policy and call in representatives of the petroleum industry of Canada?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I believe hon. members are well aware of the steps under way with regard to our oil policy as it affects the United States, and in particular that a meeting will take place on April 2 in this connection. We shall of course follow with great interest the development in the United States—the appointment of the committee referred to by the hon. member. I have noted the further representation by the hon. member concerning the possible use of a standing committee of this house, and I will take this under advisement.

Mr. Woolliams: The government always seems to talk about taking matters under advisement. Having regard to the minister's inert words and the innuendo contained in them, may I ask whether he believes in government by secrecy and inaction?

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HON. MEMBER
FOR YORK-SIMCOE**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it should be directed to the Prime Minister. Do the much publicized and widely promoted views of the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Roberts) concerning Canada's attitude toward the North Atlantic Treaty Organization represent the views of the government with respect to Canada's relationship with that organization?

Mr. Speaker: The question is not in order. The hon. member cannot ask in this way for the opinion of the government about statements made by members other than members of the government.

Mr. Nesbitt: With great respect, I would ordinarily agree with Your Honour's ruling, but in this case so much advance publicity has been given to the hon. member's remarks at a time when the question of Canada's relationship to NATO—

Mr. Speaker: Order.