

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in the light of the recent statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to the effect that the all-item cost of living index rose by 1.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, the largest advance in over a decade, is the government now considering compulsory price and wage controls for specific industries or for the entire economy?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course any announcement like that would be made at the appropriate time and not during the question period.

Mr. Ryan: Has the minister caused preparations to be made in the event a decision is taken by the government to impose controls, and has he consulted with the provinces about expected or anticipated co-operation in the event a decision is taken to bring in controls?

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NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT—REPLY TO QUEBEC REQUEST

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act which will die a natural death, as I hope it will, at the end of the month. Is he now in a position to say whether the government intends to permit it to die and not introduce other legislation or whether the government has in mind changes in the Criminal Code designed to cover the general situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the right hon. member that an announcement will be made on this before the end of the month.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. There is a delightful air of uncertainty about the Prime Minister which I can understand in view of the division in the cabinet. I would ask him, however, if the government has replied to the request of the government of the province of Quebec for permanent legislation to cover situations such as that which arose last fall? Has there been a reply and, if so, what was the nature of that reply?

An hon. Member: Take it up with Dalton Camp.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there has been no written reply by myself to the Premier of Quebec. We have considered his letter and are taking into account representations which he made to me. He, too, will know the answer before the thirtieth of the month.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I realize it is very imprudent to try to get an answer from the Prime Minister on this but I would ask if a reply was sent by any minister of this government to the

[Mr. Valade.]

government of Quebec in consequence of the request that was made in this regard?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I feel sure I am right in saying there was no reply. It is conceivable there has been one but I doubt it very much. The letter was addressed to me and I did not answer; therefore I cannot see how any reply would have been sent to that letter.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You were away at the time.

Mr. Trudeau: I might add that, as I told the House earlier, there have been verbal discussions on this subject between the Premier of Quebec and myself.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister in connection with the request made to Ottawa by the Quebec government, Mr. Speaker. Is any further legislation necessary since the premier of the province of Quebec has assured the European countries that all is well in that province?

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Joliette, who wishes to put a supplementary question.

[English]

I wonder whether I could invite the co-operation of hon. members so that we might try to consider more subjects than we did yesterday. I still have to recognize a number of hon. members who did not have an opportunity to ask their questions yesterday. I undertook that I would look in their direction early in the question period and I am counting on the co-operation of all hon. members in order that I might be able to achieve that.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Since the special measures must be repealed at the end of the month, can he tell the House whether there will be a meeting with the Quebec premier in this connection before then?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am not aware of any such meeting being planned, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, the Quebec premier is in Europe and I personally do not expect to meet him to discuss the matter referred to by the hon. member before the end of the month. However, as the hon. member knows, I am always open to such proposed meetings.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED BUGGING BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE OF RESIDENCE OF ST. JEAN-BAPTISTE SOCIETY OFFICIAL

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Solicitor General. I would