

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I apologize to the hon. member for Compton, but I believe the hon. member for York South would like to ask a supplementary question.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: I ask the Prime Minister whether he has any further information regarding the amount of dynamite, arms, ammunition and so forth recovered by the police in their numerous searches? I am not asking for the number of pounds. Has there been a substantial amount recovered or is the answer given by the Solicitor General a few days ago still correct, that there has not?

Mr. Trudeau: We know approximately the amount which has disappeared. I do not know what has been found as of today. The Solicitor General will give this answer in the House if he is asked.

WAR MEASURES ACT—CHARGES LAID—NUMBER HELD BEYOND SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT CHARGE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether any charge has been laid against anyone arrested for commission of the new crime created by the regulations under the War Measures Act?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have heard of none, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Would the Prime Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary ascertain whether any such charges have been laid and tell us the number of people involved? Could the right hon. gentleman ascertain at the same time how many persons have been held for longer than seven days at the request of the Minister of Justice of Quebec without a charge of any sort having been laid?

Mr. Trudeau: I will attempt to get this information for the House and have one of the law officers of the Crown answer. I can only say I hope it will be as much as possible the spirit of the Act that charges will be laid under the Criminal Code rather than under the War Measures Act, but here again I cannot speak for the province of Quebec which is entrusted with administering the Act.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

REDUCTION OF BANK PRIME INTEREST RATE

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary which I would like to direct to the Minister of Finance.

Has the Minister received a reply from Canadian banking institutions with regard to his request to reduce the prime rate, or preferential interest rate which these institutions charge their best customers?

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

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HOUSING

ROCHDALE COLLEGE—SUGGESTED FORECLOSURE ON MORTGAGE BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): My question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for housing. Has the minister received a letter from city of Toronto Alderman Anthony O'Donahue asking that the mortgage on Rochdale College be foreclosed and that the building be taken over by the government on the grounds that it is a vertical flophouse and has been damaged to an extent estimated at \$168,000?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that it is not in order to ask simply whether a minister has received a letter.

Mr. Ryan: May I rephrase the question, then? In view of the alderman's charges that the college is a centre for promiscuity, drug-taking and drug-marketing, and that it is a launching pad for revolutionary groups, is the government prepared to get tough and correct this disgraceful situation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): I indicated to the hon. member the other day in reply to a similar question that we are very concerned about this matter. We are examining it at the present time and I hope to be able to consult with my colleagues about the decision in the very near future. Our decision will undoubtedly be communicated to the House.

Mr. Ryan: Will the minister not give us a better indication of when this statement is likely to be made?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE

REDUCTION OF PRIME INTEREST RATE—DISCUSSIONS WITH CHARTERED BANKS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister be prepared to make a statement at an early occasion on the results of his discussions with the chartered banks and with the Governor of the Bank of Canada in connection with the level of interest rates, and also indicate on what basis the government fixed its rates for the new Canada Savings Bonds now on sale?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): First, I should say I was in touch with the chartered banks on Friday, as I indicated to the House. I expressed my opinion to them with respect to the prime rate of interest. I did not ask them or tell them to change their rates because, after all,