

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY**PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT—PERSONS INCARCERATED AND REFUSED BAIL**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, about ten days ago I asked the Minister of Justice whether he would report to the House as to the number of people still incarcerated under the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, no bail having been granted, in view of his recommendation for new bail legislation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): The question asked by the hon. member was not quite that; he asked me whether anyone was still incarcerated who had not been charged with any particular offence either under the Criminal Code or under the special legislation. I have the answer to that question. There is no person presently detained who was arrested either under the regulations made pursuant to the War Measures Act or the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act who has not been charged under the regulations or under the Criminal Code. In some instances individuals have been charged under both the Criminal Code and the regulations or under the temporary measures act.

Mr. Woolliams: To clear up a misunderstanding which seems to be spreading across the nation, can the minister tell us how many people have actually been charged under the public order law. I am not talking about the Criminal Code and criminal conspiracy or other crimes. How many people have actually been charged under the public order law, and how many have been refused bail to date and are still incarcerated?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I cannot break down the figures as between those charged under the Criminal Code and those charged under the War Measures Act.

As of this morning the total number arrested was 497. Those charged number 62; those still detained number 32; 465 have been released and two have been convicted. In other words, 435 were released without being charged and 28 are appearing later on charges.

JOBS LOST BY PEOPLE DETAINED AND RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): On a couple of occasions some months ago I asked the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General how many people had lost their jobs as a result of being apprehended and released, despite the fact that in the great majority of cases no charges were laid. This is important information I should like to have.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): We do not have any definite information. I should like to suggest to the hon. member, who is aware of earlier questions which were put to the Solicitor General, some just recently, that it might well not be in the interest of those who may have lost their employment to identify them in particular terms. I am sure he would not want to do that.

[Mr. Rondeau.]

I might say that the Quebec Minister of Justice has stated that any recommendation by the ombudsman of Quebec to the effect that there may have been personal loss suffered in individual cases, including loss of employment, will be seriously considered by him if such complaint is referred to him by the ombudsman.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE**AMENDMENT OF SECTION RESPECTING CONTEMPT OF COURT**

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I wish to direct to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner).

Since the Liberal party Convention to be held next weekend intends to submit amendments to Criminal Code provisions relating to contempt of court, has the minister consulted with his fellow members of the cabinet as to their opinions on this question?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): The Criminal Code is being continuously revised by officers of the Department of Justice, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY**RETURN OF FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF PERSONS RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In light of the fact that 435 people were detained for a period of time and then released, and that photographs and fingerprints were taken and other records made, can the minister inform the House whether or not these records have been retained or disposed of since these 435 people have not been charged?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, since fingerprints can only be taken of accused persons who have been properly charged, in the case of those persons who were not charged I wrote to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police advising them to return all fingerprints of those arrested but not charged. I am informed by the police that that has been done.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I may have missed the minister's answer, but in the breakdown he gave a few moments ago did he indicate how many of those charged have been granted bail? If he has that information, would he give it to the House?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Sixty-two less 32, which makes the answer 30.