

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF  
SENATE AND HOUSE

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. I am sure we are all pleased by the enlightenment that has taken place on the other side of the House, although it was a little long in coming—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will have noticed that a few other members wish to ask supplementary questions. Perhaps the hon. member should ask his supplementary while he has the floor.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** With reference to the proposed committee announced by the Minister of Justice, can the minister indicate whether the terms of reference will be such as to empower the committee to bring before it persons and papers and to review the actual events in order that this may not be simply an academic discussion but that a full evaluation may be made of the events last fall so that proper action can be recommended by the committee?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** When the President of the Privy Council gives notice of the resolution he will set forth the terms under which the committee shall sit and the terms of reference will speak for themselves.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE APPEAR BEFORE  
SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE TO GIVE INFORMATION  
CONCERNING APPREHENDED INSURRECTION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement by the Minister of Justice that the government has full authority under the Criminal Code to deal with illegal organizations guilty of seditious conspiracy, is the House to take it that the minister is now making a public apology to the people of Canada for having introduced unnecessary legislation in the form of the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act and is the minister prepared—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I doubt whether that question is in order. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rephrase it in some other way.

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, the rest of my question was to inquire whether the minister would be prepared—preferably the Prime Minister but I am directing the question to the Minister of Justice—to appear before the committee when this matter is referred to it in order to acquaint the committee with all the facts and information that the government had at its disposal at the time it decided there was an apprehended insurrection in Canada?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, that depends upon whether the committee decides to call me. If so, I shall appear before the committee within the terms of reference of that committee. I want to say, for the enlightenment of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, that the special crime of illegality

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of being a member of the FLQ was necessary in the circumstances to lower the burden of proof in a time of crisis and, more important, to expand the scope of the procedural advantages that were given to the Crown, namely, an extension in the power of arrest, and in the power of search.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the minister for interrupting him but it seems to me that the question period has now changed into a debate. If hon. members wish to have a debate about this very important matter I am sure they can arrange this between themselves. However, I would not think that the question period should be turned into a debate on this very important matter. I understand there are a number of members who wish to raise different questions, and if we spend the whole question period debating this matter rather than seeking information we will not achieve as much as we might otherwise. I would therefore invite the Minister of Justice to reach the conclusion of his statement as soon as possible.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Baldwin:** On the point of order you have raised, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Minister of Justice on a point of order.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I take what you say to heart, but I would have thought that in the fairness you show in your presidency of this House you would have allowed me to reply to the preamble that was bootlegged into the question of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the Minister of Justice and to all hon. members that if the question asked by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands was not entirely regular, in the same way the minister's response was not entirely regular. They were both interrupted as soon as the Chair could get the floor.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On the point of order Your Honour has raised—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River rises on the point of order.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On the point which you raised, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the Minister of Justice could have answered very simply in two words—"more power".

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask the Minister of Justice a supplementary question? Will either the minister or the President of the Privy Council undertake to assure the House that the terms of reference for the setting up of this investigation by a joint committee will be broad enough to permit an inquiry into the grounds upon which the government decided both to invoke the War Mea-