

world markets in general. I suggest to the Hon. Member that he see that this Bill is brought to committee very quickly so that we can all have a good look at it. When he asks about guarantees, is he suggesting a performance review and direct regulation? If so, I think that he would find himself in serious difficulty.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

STATUS OF NATIONAL VOLUNTARY GROUPS

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. The Minister will know that yesterday leaders of Canada's national voluntary agencies were gathered here in Ottawa and were alarmed by reports that the Minister's Department has engaged 12 new lawyers to investigate systematically Canada's national voluntary groups. The Minister is also aware that his officials are at this time threatening to remove the charitable status of the Canadian Mental Health Association. The charter of that Association has always included the aim of urging Governments at all levels to take legislative and financial action to further its objectives.

Why has the Minister chosen this particular time when his colleague, the Secretary of State, is introducing a Joint Committee to look at this very matter of charitable activity? Why has he chosen this particular time to turn his guns on the Canadian Mental Health Association?

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the impression given by the Hon. Member. I would like to tell him that we have not added person-years to the charitable organizations division of the Department in order to look after the charitable organizations. We have added person-years because there was a large backlog of requests by charitable organizations and we wanted to speed up the processing of those requests in order to have charitable organizations recognized more rapidly. That is what we have done with those added person-years.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the leaders of the voluntary agencies will be reassured by the Minister's comment.

REQUEST THAT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION STATUS BE MAINTAINED

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the Minister's comment, will he then follow the recommendation made by the Secretary of State during yesterday's debate, which was that until the Special Joint Committee has completed its report there will be no further removals of charitable status from voluntary agencies?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of trouble understanding the Hon. Member's suggestion. The Hon. Member is asking that when there is an obvious case of abuse of the provisions of the Act with respect to charitable organizations, I, as Minister of National Revenue, should ignore the fact and refrain from enforcing the law. I hardly think the Hon. Member would want us to administer the laws of this country in that way.

However, I may point out to the Hon. Member, as my colleague, the Secretary of State, said previously, that a committee has been established, further to a proposal made in the Throne Speech, for the purpose of examining the status of charitable organizations and what their status should be in relation to the tax system. Any charitable organizations that wish to submit their complaints to this committee will be welcome. This will not be considered to be political activity on their part, since they have a formal invitation from the Government and the House of Commons to come and submit their comments with respect to the status of charitable organizations.

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[English]

WAR MEASURES ACT

REASONS FOR INVOCATION IN 1970

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and concerns the War Measures Act. He will recall that his predecessor Minister of Justice, Mr. Turner, said on October 16, 1970, as reported on page 215 of that day's *Hansard*:

It is my hope that some day the full details of the intelligence upon which the government acted can be made public, because until that day comes the people of Canada will not be able fully to appraise the course of action which has been taken by the government.

I wonder if the Minister of Justice would tell us whether it is his intention to continue to keep secret the information which Mr. Turner kept secret 14 years ago?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, this is certainly a day for the Opposition to try to rake up the past. I have not had an opportunity to consider that question. My hon. friend is aware of the fact that there is a rule that, after 30 years, information becomes available. However, I will certainly have another look at that file to see whether there is any public interest to justify having the information released now.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, there has also been a rule that Canadians do not get thrown into jail without charge. This Government, this Prime Minister, and Mr. Turner as Minister of Justice, threw hundreds of Canadians into jail without charge under the War Measures Act, and they solemnly promised in this House that they would tell the people of