

that he has warned the British government of the possible consequences of the resumption of arms shipments.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask whether the Canadian government has received any indication that the British government is likely to alter or reverse its policy with respect to the sale of arms to South Africa?

Mr. Sharp: The hon. gentleman has seen the statements made by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and he is free to draw the same inferences as we are from those statements.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Have any arrangements been made to have the statement of the Prime Minister of Canada at the Commonwealth conference released to members of the House soon after it is made?

Mr. Sharp: It is part of the genius of the Commonwealth that these discussions are conducted in private, and I do not think it would help if we were to turn the Commonwealth conference into a miniature United Nations.

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ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

REPAYMENT OF DEBT—CARR REPORT

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister.

I would like to ask him whether the Carr report has been submitted to the cabinet, whether the cabinet has examined it and whether a decision has been reached concerning the repayment or the refinancing of the debt of the St. Lawrence Seaway?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I will take notice of that question, Mr. Speaker.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT BY PERMANENT LEGISLATION

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government preparing permanent legislation to replace the temporary public order emergency measures that are now in force?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): It is the intention of the government to bring this matter before parliament in the near future.

Mr. Ryan: Is the government contemplating proceedings to have certain elements of the explosives act, the coroners act and the fire investigations act of the province of Quebec that are in conflict with the Criminal Code declared ultra vires?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply of the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning what the government intends to do or to place before parliament regarding the temporary powers act, may I ask whether it is the intention of the government, now that all those in the FLQ have been picked up who were suspected of wrongdoing, to have this legislation terminated?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, it is not the intention of the government to withdraw the present legislation. The right hon. gentleman will have seen the statements made by the Prime Minister of Quebec and the Prime Minister of Canada in relation to this subject, and I have nothing to add to what they have said.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then what did the minister mean when he said certain legislation was going to come before the House in connection with this matter? Why this aura of indefiniteness?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I understood the question that was put to me it related to more permanent legislation that would give the government authority to deal with civil emergencies of a kind that perhaps would not come under the War Measures Act, or for which the government would not wish to proclaim the War Measures Act which contains powers that would not be required. My answer was to the effect that the government intended in the near future to bring this subject before parliament.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, is it the government's intention to keep the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act in effect until such time as permanent legislation is brought before the House?

Mr. Sharp: Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: As a supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question for clarification to the Acting Prime Minister. When he said that the subject of permanent legislation of a public order nature would be brought before the House did he mean to imply that legislation would be introduced or simply that the matter would be put before the House in some way?

Mr. Sharp: I mean the latter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Would the Acting Prime Minister indicate to the House the manner in which the matter will be put before the House?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, a decision has not yet been reached, and when it is it will be announced to the House.