

Inquiries of the Ministry

An hon. Member: How did you find that out?

An hon. Member: Never mind; he did.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that as a fact. There may have been some contact by some police officer with the department, but I am not at all certain that it was the RCMP. I have checked and have been informed that there was no such request from the Attorney General of Manitoba.

An hon. Member: The city police, then?

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): As a supplementary question I should like to ask the minister if someone entering this country from another country, particularly from the United States, who fitted into the picture of the new crimes created by the War Measures Act would be treated any differently than a Canadian is treated today?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the question is a question of principle—

Mr. Woolliams: It is a good question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member suggests it is a good question and it probably is. However, the hon. member is asking a rhetorical question and in that sense it is not in order.

Mr. Woolliams: I wonder if I might rephrase it, Mr. Speaker, because I was not trying to put a rhetorical question, with the greatest respect. We have already had some of these people enter Canada so it really is a practical question. I am asking this simple question: Does the law apply to those people coming in who fit into the picture the same as it would apply to a Canadian who has been detained without right of counsel and without being charged?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, while the hon. member has tried, I think he has rephrased his question in another form of hypothesis. All I can say is that there is the law and there are the regulations and these are what we seek to apply.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for St. Boniface rising on a supplementary?

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

I should like to ask the Minister of Immigration whether he has been in communication with the Attorney General of the province of Manitoba in regard to this Black Panther and whether the Manitoba minister approves the policy of the federal government to allow Ray "Masai" Hewitt into the province of Manitoba to speak on Friday?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, as far as I know there has been no communication to us from the government of Manitoba.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**ASSISTANCE TO RYERSON PRESS TO PREVENT TAKEOVER BY UNITED STATES INTERESTS—POLICY RESPECTING TEXTBOOK PUBLISHERS**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Did the government entertain a request from the Ryerson Press publishing house for assistance which would have prevented that company having to sell out to United States interests?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that question was asked yesterday. If I am wrong, perhaps the minister can reply to it.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, the question was not put in the same manner yesterday. My question is, was a request for assistance made to the government and why did the government not entertain such a request?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I can only say that such a request did not come to me. I will find out if other ministers received one.

Mr. McGrath: May I ask what stand the government is taking in view of the alarming number of takeovers by United States companies of Canadian publishing houses involved in the publication of Canadian textbooks?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked the minister to make a statement of policy. I do not think he can do this at this time.

Mr. Baldwin: He has no policy.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF CANADIAN COMPANIES—AMENDMENTS TO COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Government House Leader. Can the President of the Privy Council indicate when the amendments to the Combines Investigation Act will be introduced in the House in order that we might give further consideration to steps to prevent the takeover of firms such as Ryerson Press by foreign concerns?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot indicate the time when that legislation will be brought forward.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the great importance that school texts in particular have in the thinking of young Canadians, would the government give immediate consideration to putting the publishing industry in the same category as banking and broadcasting in terms of requiring Canadian ownership?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that banking and broadcasting are within federal jurisdiction and that therefore we have a particular responsibility toward the policies developed therein, but this is not the case, obviously, with publishing.