

member insists, we could deal with policy matters and bring up the subject later.

[English]

ALLEGED USE OF TEENAGE INFORMERS—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY BY COMMITTEE OF HOUSE

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Even though there was objection to my request to move a motion for referral of this matter to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs earlier today, may I ask him whether he will give consideration to making a motion for such a referral if the phraseology of the original request that I made was not acceptable to him? In other words, would he refer this subject matter to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee for examination as well as conducting an examination himself?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated, I should like first of all to study the report of the commissioner after the inquiry, then I shall indicate what the best policy should be.

It may well be that the report will reveal that the facts are false or misleading. Then the members can judge for themselves, when I have put my proposal forward, what might be the best way to find out the truth of the matter.

The purpose of this exercise is surely to get at the truth. If it cannot be done through standard procedures—which are still the best way—then more extraordinary steps will be taken.

[English]

ALLEGED USE OF TEENAGE INFORMERS—POLICY DIRECTIVES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, is the minister not able to make clear at this point that there is no such directive with regard to this matter, or is he going to allow the uncertainty to continue to exist with regard to the use of paid youth informers under circumstances similar to those described by Mr. Eadie?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member insists, I can tell him which philosophy—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister is suggesting that he would be prepared to expose the philosophy of the department in this respect. I really think this ought to be done on motions and not during the question period, particularly when we are running short of time.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RECRUITING OF INFORMERS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): On a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, would the minister, apart from the facts of this particular case, be willing to make a statement to the House on motions setting out the policy of the government and of the RCMP with regard to the

Inquiries of the Ministry

recruiting of informers, particularly under-age informers?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there is a specific policy in this respect, but I would rather deal with it when I receive the report and I do not believe this will take too long. I hope that a report can be made to the House next week and I will then be able to explain very clearly the policy we are following in this area.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—PAYMENT BY QUEBEC FOR SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES

Mr. Roch Lasalle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Considering that the presence of the Armed Forces in Quebec last October gave rise to supplementary expenditures, can the Prime Minister tell us today whether Quebec will or not have to pay for those additional costs?

Right Hon. P.E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Cabinet has considered the matter this very morning and I will shortly be sending a letter to Premier Bourassa to inform him that, considering the particular circumstances in which the War Measures Act was invoked, the federal government does not intend to require payment from the province of Quebec.

[English]

WAR MEASURES ACT—PAYMENT BY QUEBEC FOR SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES—AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I would now like to repeat the gist of the question I asked the Minister of National Defence last Tuesday at which time his answer was not recorded. Is it the intention of the government of Canada to press for amendments to the National Defence Act to fall in with the demand of the province of Quebec that the costs of the use of the armed forces in Quebec be borne by Canada?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, my answer, which was no on Tuesday, after this morning's cabinet meeting has become yes. Not only will we deal with the situation of Quebec but also with the arrears of the five other provinces which have amounts outstanding that are owing to the government of Canada, including the province of which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) was at one time the premier.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED THREATS BY PEKING OF HARM TO RELATIVES IN CHINA OF VANCOUVER CHINESE RESIDENTS

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister on