

in view of statements he made outside the House yesterday, consideration is being given to the declaring of emergency police powers of the sort, for example, to permit the police to search without warrant and arrest and hold individuals for questioning without having to lay a specific charge or justify any such action? Is any such consideration being given?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Since the beginning of this emergency, Mr. Speaker, the government has considered all possible types of action including this and many others, but there has been no decision made along these or any other lines which is not obvious to the country and to Parliament.

Mr. Stanfield: Will the Prime Minister give the House the assurance that no action of this nature will be taken without the approval of the House of Commons?

Mr. Trudeau: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is a matter of law. Quite frankly, I do not think this type of suspension of civil liberties, if I understand the Leader of the Opposition, would be possible without some amendment to our statute or some action by the government which would have to be brought before the House at some point.

Mr. Stanfield: Will the Prime Minister give the assurance that even if the government has this authority in law no such action will be taken without seeking the approval of the House of Commons?

Mr. Trudeau: This is completely hypothetical. I repeat that if such action were ever contemplated it would certainly be discussed in the House of Commons. Whether it would be immediately before or immediately after would depend, of course, on—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I am sorry to observe the lightness with which the opposition treats this question. It is obvious that if urgent action is needed at some time in the middle of the night we cannot ask Parliament to approve it first.

Mr. Aiken: All these things happen in the middle of the night.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You have no power to do it except through Parliament.

* * *

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

EXTENSION OF LIFE—RETENTION OF DR. YOUNG AS CHAIRMAN

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that the Order in Council appointing the Prices and Incomes Commission will expire at the end of the present calendar year, is it the intention to extend the life of the commission by Order in Council? Will there be the same terms of reference or does the minister envisage some legislative enactment?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The commission will be continued as long as it is considered by the government to be playing a useful role, which it is certainly doing now.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the minister whether he expects to retain Dr. Young as chairman of that commission, bearing in mind that his credibility has been destroyed by his attack on the arbitrator—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will recognize that the question as asked is not in order. Even on this day I do not think he should be allowed to ask a question in those terms.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the chairman has criticized the business community for its lack of readiness to face strikes, does the minister consider that the present chairman should be kept in that position?

Mr. Basford: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

CONTINUATION OF WAGE INCREASE GUIDELINE POLICY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs a question which the Minister of Finance indicated he would answer yesterday in his speech but did not. Is it the intention of the government to continue the guideline policy for a further period when the year originally contemplated expires?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I think this is something to be announced in due course by the commission and by the government, as to what action will be suggested for January, 1971.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the emphasis placed by the Minister of Finance on stepping up the private sector, would the minister not agree it is important that the uncertainty as to government policy in this area be cleared up as rapidly as possible?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Leader of the Opposition is inviting the minister to express an opinion and the question is not in order in those terms.

STEINBERG WAGE INCREASES—CLARIFICATION BY CHAIRMAN OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION OF EFFECT ON PRICES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): In view of the complaint by Steinberg's Limited concerning an inaccurate and unfair statement made by the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission, will the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs discuss with Dr. Young