

Inquiries of the Ministry

with the greatest respect, that it may serve a very useful purpose to this parliament if the answer were on the record.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: If there is agreement between hon. members that the question may be asked, I have no objection.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I think this is a very important matter. The minister may have an answer and I think at this point particularly it may be helpful.

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is a transcript of the press conference I made on March 10. In order to allay the concern of the hon. member for York South and the concern in the minds of many hon. members, I would be prepared to have a transcript of my press conference of March 10, which is referred to in the order in council, transmitted along with the order in council. In so far as the second question is concerned, I am prepared to make myself available as the first witness before the commissioner in support of the statements that I have made on this matter.

Mr. Starr: May I ask a supplementary question? Can the minister advise us if this is the exact transcript of the tape, without changes?

Mr. Cardin: I can assure the hon. gentleman that it is an exact transcript. If he does not think so, then I will hand him the tape.

Mr. Starr: Don't be so touchy; I only asked, I did not say.

[*Translation*]

FINANCE**CONSULTATION RESPECTING INCREASE IN INTEREST RATE BY BANK OF CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp). Would he tell us whether there was an agreement between himself and the governor of the Bank of Canada before it decided to increase the interest rate?

[*English*]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Governor of the Bank of

[*Mr. Lewis.*]

Canada, as is customary in such circumstances, consulted with me and I considered the change that was made in the bank rate appropriate in the circumstances.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Finance tell us what motivated such increase in the interest rate? Is it due to an increase in the value of Canadian currency? If so, what was the percentage of such increase?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is not acceptable.

Mr. Grégoire: I wish to put an acceptable question on this matter which is very important to Canadians. Will the minister tell us if the increase in the interest rate is due to the increase in the cost of the paper and ink used to print Canadian dollars?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[*Later:*]

[*English*]

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I think he remarked in an answer given a few moments ago that under the present circumstances he agreed with the recent action taken by the Bank of Canada in raising the interest rates. I am wondering whether the government is planning any other moves because of these present circumstances.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will have to wait for my budget, which I hope will be coming down reasonably soon.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance?

Could he tell the house what reasons prompted the Bank of Canada to increase its rates of interest?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe this question was put earlier.

[*Later:*]

[*English*]

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): I have a question for the Minister of Finance, or possibly for the Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the Governor of the Bank of