

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege. The minister denies that the RCMP act in this way, yet he has not taken the trouble to investigate the matter. I am not criticizing the Minister of Justice because his answers yesterday were sympathetic, but the Solicitor General should at least look into the facts before making dogmatic, categorical statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt very much whether this is a proper question of privilege.

[Translation]

VIOLENT DISTURBANCES

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AID

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence.

Has the Quebec government asked for co-operation or assistance from the federal government in view of the demonstrations now being held in Quebec and which threaten to destroy our democratic principles and throw us into anarchy?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, at ten o'clock this morning, when I left my office, we had not yet received from the Quebec government any official request for troops to help maintain law and order. I cannot say whether the Quebec government has any intention of asking for the help of the Army.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

Since all Canadians are also concerned about the difficulties Quebecers are now experiencing, does the Prime Minister intend, in his well-known spirit of co-operation and responsibility, to offer the services of his government to put an end to those acts of terrorism and to bring to reason those people who stir up innocent individuals like the students and young people?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think there is no question about that. Indeed, I have talked to the federal, provincial and municipal authorities in this connection. The federal government is ready to co-operate with those authorities, should they request it.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

MONTREAL—LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to

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the Prime Minister. Could he tell the house if the laying off, yesterday, of 50 C.B.C. employees in Montreal is part of the government's political goals to check the inflationary trend by creating more unemployment or if this laying off is part of a policy designed to muzzle political opponents?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for South Western Nova.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I wish to rephrase my question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question has been ruled out of order, and I now recognize the honourable member for South Western Nova. I shall recognize the hon. member later.

Mr. Valade: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member on a point or order.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, under the rules and the practice of the house, in the past when a member asked a question which was ruled out of order he has been allowed to rephrase it so that the minister may answer.

[English]

ATOMIC ENERGY

BRUCE NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT—EFFECT OF FEDERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since new federal safety regulations concerning the proximity of the construction of Ontario's Bruce nuclear generating plant to the federal atomic energy plant now mean a change in location for the Ontario site and the lay-off of many employees, has the government agreed to assist in meeting the cost of this shutdown and lay-off?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The decision of the Atomic Energy Control Board in this regard and the resultant change of site are matters which have only recently come to my attention, and no economic arrangements or arrangements in respect of the workmen affected by this decision have yet been made.

Mr. Comeau: Can the minister tell us when these regulations were passed and explain how it is that the facts were not known before construction began?