Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY

VANCOUVER—PROPOSED UTILIZATION OF WAR MEASURES
ACT TO BAN SUBVERSIVE GATHERINGS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice or the Solicitor General. Are they aware of reports from Vancouver today to the effect that the city council there is to consider a motion which would ban all "subversive gatherings" under the powers that they consider to be contained in the war measures legislation and, if so, do they think that such action would be in conformity with Parliament's intention?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might want to reply to the question. I have some doubts whether it is in order but the minister may want to answer in any event.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the particular resolution before the Vancouver city council. I have been in touch with the Attorney General of the province of British Columbia and my officials have been in touch with his office underlining the purpose of the implementation of the War Measures Act, which is to meet a present emergency arising out of the particular subversive activities of the FLQ, and suggesting that any extension of the use of the War Measures Act beyond that purpose might very well be harmful.

IMMIGRATION

TIGHTENING OF LAW TO PREVENT ADMISSION OF PERSONS WITH SAME AIMS AS FLQ

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of the implementation of the War Measures Act I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether there has been any tightening up of immigration laws in reference to those people coming into Canada who appear to have the same aims and objectives as the FLQ, even though they may not have membership cards?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I take it that the hon. gentleman is asking the question as a lawyer. There has been no tightening up in the sense that there has been no further extension of the powers applied under the War Measures Act by the adoption of any Order in Council further to those published on the first day in this House. There was nothing in them, to my recollection, that referred to immigration; therefore there has been no tightening up in the sense the hon. member asks.

Mr. Woolliams: Perhaps I might ask a supplementary question. I take it then that the law applies to Canadians and anyone who wishes to come in and do the same thing as the FLQ is still permitted to come in under the immigration laws?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the supplementary question as asked is an argument in support of the question asked in the first instance.

[Mr. Pelletier.]

Mr. Woolliams: With the greatest respect, Mr. Speaker, it was not meant as an argument. I am seeking information on this important matter.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

JUSTIFICATION FOR RERUN OF PANEL DISCUSSION ON WAR MEASURES ACT

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, my question has reference to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and I tried to get in a supplementary earlier. Last evening the CBC included on its television show, "Weekend", an old panel discussion of doubtful taste and merit on the invocation of the War Measures Act. I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he has requested or will request the corporation for figures that would justify its claim on the air that they did this only in response to substantial viewer pressure, giving the impression that all sorts of people were dying to hear this week-old homily?

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

METRIC SYSTEM INTRODUCTION—REQUEST FOR STATE-MENT TO CLEAR UP CONFUSION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will he clear up the confusion that exists in the minds of the business community and the country arising out of the government timetable in regard to the metric system and the confusion that has been created by the introduction of a bill in the other place?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Bill S-5 in the other place, the new Weights and Measures Act, is designed, among other things, simply to provide that the yard and other units of Canadian measurement will be measured against the international meter rather than against previous standards which at one time included the right arm of King Henry I. This is simply to improve the standard of measuring and measuring devices in Canada.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATIONS FOR INCREASED GRANT TO UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the strong representations made by the Canadian UNICEF committee, is the government giving favourable consideration to increasing Canada's grant to the United Nations Children's Fund to \$2,400,000?