

Inquiries of the Ministry

Any reply would, of course, take the form of action rather than the form of correspondence.

Mr. Saltsman: In view of the statement attributed to a spokesman for the Bank of Nova Scotia indicating that a reduction in lending rates would have to be matched by a corresponding cut in interest rates paid on savings deposits, which would indicate that the banks are not prepared to reduce their profit margins, does the minister intend to bring in legislation to limit the profit margins of banks?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

[Translation]

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

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

In view of the request of the Premier of Quebec for the services of the armed forces in that province, can the Prime Minister tell us whether Quebec will have to pay the total cost of operations scheduled up to April 1971, or whether the Department of National Defence or the federal government will agree to pay for the protection of one of its provinces, in this instance Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the matter is a legal one, but if I can reply, I believe the National Defense Act provides that, when a province requests the assistance of the Armed Forces in the form of civil assistance, the expenses of the operation are borne by that province.

Mr. La Salle: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

May I ask the Prime Minister whether, when it was contemplated to send the armed forces to Quebec the federal government informed the Quebec authorities that they would have to bear the cost?

Mr. Trudeau: I do not think that this question has been raised, Mr. Speaker. It may have been but, as a matter of principle, the province of Quebec is supposed to know the law also.

[English]

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

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice a question to avoid any confusion, or any more confusion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member had better sit down then.

Mr. Stanfield: Could the minister indicate whether any charges have been laid against any of the persons who

[Mr. Benson.]

were arrested under the War Measures Act regulations but have been released? He previously told the House that no charges have been laid against those still detained. Have any charges been laid against those who were arrested and have been released?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I was going on the assumption that those who were released were released without having been charged. I will confirm that at the earliest opportunity, perhaps tomorrow, for the hon. gentleman.

WAR MEASURES ACT—VANCOUVER POLICE REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO VIET NAM COMMITTEE TO HOLD MARCH

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. As the police in Vancouver have refused permission to the Viet Nam Committee to hold a march and rally this Saturday, despite the fact that such permission has been granted twice a year on a Saturday for the past five years, will the minister inquire into the matter with a view to ascertaining if this refusal is an abuse of the present regulations under the War Measures Act?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, because the inquiry should properly be addressed to the Attorney General of British Columbia.

Mrs. MacInnis: Since the minister has not yet established that personal contact with the Attorney General of British Columbia—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

WAR MEASURES ACT—RECEIPT BY PRIME MINISTER OF NAMES OF THOSE DETAINED OR RELEASED

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether or not he receives a list of the names of those who are being detained or have been detained and whether he also is informed from day to day of the names of those released?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The answer is no to both questions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister get in touch with the government of Quebec and secure this information, for I think Canadians as a whole are entitled to know more than they know at the present time?

Mr. Trudeau: There is no need to, Mr. Speaker; this is not a presidential system. I have ministers to do that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Is that a change of policy?

Mr. Forrestall: The Prime Minister makes a joke of it, as usual.