

presented to the House on Monday, February 22, 1971, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

HOUSE OF COMMONS

WELCOME TO MEMBER FOR VANCOUVER EAST ON RETURN FOLLOWING ILLNESS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice who I hope will be in the House later on. While on my feet, I might express my pleasure at seeing back in the House today a member who has been absent for some time because of illness, the hon. member for Vancouver East.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL SECURITY

REVOCATION OF PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT PRIOR TO EXPIRY—SUBSTITUTE LEGISLATION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Does the government intend to revoke the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, as it has the power to do, prior to its expiry on April 30?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That intention has not been expressed, Mr. Speaker. I could link this question to one which was asked the other day as to whether we would bring an Act into the House before that expiry date. My answer was that the government had committed itself to proceed in the House in some way before April 30. Beyond that, there is nothing I can add today.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the Prime Minister if the government intends to bring in legislation prior to April 30, and can he assure the House that any such legislation will not be as repressive and reprehensible as the present statute?

AMENDMENT OF CRIMINAL CODE TO MAKE PURCHASE OF FIRE ARMS MORE DIFFICULT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of recent activities of the FLQ and the increased sales of M-1 rifles in Montreal, will the Prime Minister inform

Inquiries of the Ministry

the House whether the government is planning any amendments to the Criminal Code to make it more difficult to purchase fire arms?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I believe the Minister of Justice has dealt with questions like this in the past. I would refer the question to him.

[Translation]

ALLEGED REQUEST BY QUEBEC GOVERNMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Has the Quebec government asked the Prime Minister of Canada to introduce before April 30 new legislation to replace the present one?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I could not say whether this is a request, Mr. Speaker, but in the course of discussions which took place between the Quebec government and ours, a few months ago, we informed each other of what the next steps should be. I would not refer to an entente, but the subject was discussed by both sides, and there was no objection, from either party, regarding steps to be taken.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would clearly state if the premier of Quebec would like to see the existing legislation revoked, and perhaps a new one introduced?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, once again I do not wish to speak on behalf of Quebec's premier. He has not expressed the wish to have the legislation revoked.

As far as future measures are concerned, it will behoove the federal government and the Canadian Parliament to discharge their responsibilities, when the federal government introduces his proposals, and then it will not be a question affecting only Quebec or any other province, but the country as a whole.

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

Mr. André Fortin (Lobinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

In his discussions with the Prime Minister of Quebec, did the province ask officially not to pay for the maintenance of armed forces during the October crisis?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I dealt with this matter twice in the last few days