

Inquiries of the Ministry

yesterday between the premier of Quebec and myself in relation to the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the premier of Quebec has accused the Minister of Justice of a lack of logic, since the Minister of Justice said yesterday he was going to set up a joint committee of members of the House of Commons and the Senate to look into the kind of legislation which might be produced, and as the Prime Minister has now filed some material, is he prepared to file all the correspondence between himself and the premier, including telegrams, in order that when the terms of reference of this committee come before the House we will be in a position to study them and determine if they are wide enough in scope to ascertain the true situation?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I want to be helpful, but out of memory I think I have indeed tabled all the correspondence on this matter between the premier of Quebec and myself beginning with the letter he sent me early in October requesting that the federal government realize that there was an apprehended insurrection and concluding with the letters I have his permission to table today.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question and, believe me, I do not ask it in an argumentative way.

An hon. Member: Oh, no?

Mr. Woolliams: Is the Prime Minister assuring the House that all letters and all telegrams between himself and the premier and between the premier and himself have been tabled for our information? If he is not capable—I do not mean capable—if he is not able to answer at the moment because of lack of information, will he check into the matter and assure the House that he will table all correspondence?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, as I said, according to my memory I have tabled the relevant correspondence. There may be other pieces of correspondence. I will ask my office to check into it. If there are such other pieces, I will see if the premier of Quebec has any objection to tabling them. If he does, I shall not table them, but if he has no objection I shall table them.

EXPIRY OF PUBLIC ORDER (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT—
CORRESPONDENCE FROM PROVINCES OTHER THAN
QUEBEC RESPECTING NEW LEGISLATION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Have there been requests from any other provinces for legislation of this kind or letters and telegrams of this kind from other provinces and if so, will the Prime Minister table them?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know of no other correspondence with my office on this matter, but I know that the subject matter has been discussed verbally between the premiers and ministers of other provinces and federal ministers.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT IN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
CONSORTIUM, GAS ARCTIC

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport arising out of information revealed in the 1970 annual report of Alberta Gas Trunk to the effect that Canadian National Railways has now become involved with the consortium known as Gas Arctic which is planning a pipeline to move natural gas from Prudhoe Bay through Canada to the United States. Can the minister tell us the nature and extent of this involvement by the Canadian National Railways in Gas Arctic?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it would be quite impossible to give the nature and extent of the involvement in order to explain it thoroughly in answer to a question of this sort. I can say, however, that at the present time it is merely, if I can use this expression, a holding action on the part of Canadian National. They are exploring new avenues for activity, investment and development, and they have participated in this group on that basis. But there are no, in a sense, deep or ongoing commitments as of the present time. If it will be of any benefit to the hon. member I can perhaps write him a letter indicating the full terms, but I think that is all I can say in answer to an oral question.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, may I ask if there is any commitment with reference to Canadian National Railways acquiring an equity position in this consortium, and what is the amount of that commitment?

Mr. Jamieson: Again, Mr. Speaker, I can only reply that in so far as I am aware it is exploratory at the moment. Conceivably it could lead to the involvement of Canadian National because, of course, pipelines are in a sense a form of transportation and they are merely maintaining the normal position of transportation companies in this regard. My memory is there is no commitment to an equity position at the moment, but I will be glad to look into the matter and reply as fully as possible later.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—STUDY OF CONSTITUTIONALITY OF PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the increasingly acute problem between the governments of Quebec and Ontario concerning the marketing of broilers and eggs, does the government intend to request its legal advisers, if it has not already done so, to carry out a study on Ontario and Quebec marketing legislation in order to ascertain whether it is in keeping with the constitution and whether it does not paralyze free movement of products within Canada?