

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

WAR MEASURES ACT—COMPENSATION TO THOSE
ARRESTED AND RELEASED

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that the Quebec and federal governments have offered some \$150,000 in rewards to informers on the criminals who kidnapped Mr. Cross and murdered Mr. Laporte, I would ask the Prime Minister whether the government is considering establishment of a fund to compensate those persons who have been arrested without cause under the War Measures Act, in order to vindicate their reputation with public opinion and with their employers.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must admit that we have not considered such a step for the present. The hon. member knows that the subject of compensating persons arrested under any legislation has already been brought up in the House and elsewhere. I will just repeat that in most instances such compensation is a matter to be looked into by provincial governments responsible for the administration of justice and consequently for any errors which might be perpetrated, generally speaking.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Has the Prime Minister contacted the provincial authorities to find out whether, following errors made, they were ready to offer compensation to persons arrested and detained?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. I did not contact any province in that regard nor about compensation which could have been paid following arrests made under the Criminal Code or any other legislation. I do not think this is a particular case. In any administration of justice, errors will happen and I think that some provinces or countries have provided compensation. But, I repeat, this does not come essentially under the federal government and I do not intend to take the matter in hand.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Does the government intend to make a definite and explicit statement so that the people who have been arrested may clear their names and no longer suffer serious damage from certain Canadian citizens?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the hon. member is somewhat late in asking his question. The other day in reply to a question from the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané) I gave a definite and concrete reply which I repeated on a television broadcast over the week-end. Therefore I do not feel it is my duty to say any more for the moment.

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Shefford wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Rondeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[English]

REPORTED FLIGHT FROM COUNTRY OF THOSE SOUGHT
FOR MURDER AND KIDNAPPING

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Is the Prime Minister in a position to tell the House whether any or all of those for whom warrants have been issued for their arrest for murder and kidnapping have left the country, as was reported last evening by the British Broadcasting Corporation when it was stated that the Canadian government had communicated with all the 107 nations that are associated with Interpol? Can the Prime Minister give us some information on this point?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not have any such information. I take it that it is a normal police precaution, when they are looking for suspects of this kind, to communicate with Interpol just in case the suspects might have left Canada. I have no particular information to the effect that they have.

[Translation]

MURDER OF PIERRE LAPORTE AND KIDNAPPING OF JAMES
CROSS—EFFICIENCY OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

Considering the time it is taking our police forces to find the kidnapers of Mr. Cross and the murderers of Mr. Laporte, do the Ottawa and Quebec governments intend to call upon other police forces, such as Scotland Yard or the F.B.I.?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): We have not considered such an action, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

APPREHENDED INSURRECTION—CRTC REQUEST TO
OTTAWA PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS TO PROVIDE
CERTAIN TAPES

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is really for the Secretary of State who unfortunately is not here today. I would ask the Prime Minister to take it as notice or, if he knows now, to tell the House if there is any relationship at all with the telegrams from the CRTC to four private radio stations in Ottawa requesting them to deliver to the CRTC, within two weeks, 12 days of 24-hour tapes during the relevant period when this unfortunate crisis developed? If he does not know, could he find out whether the Secretary of State would make a statement tomorrow in view of this rather unusual request by telegram?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe it is the object of the CRTC to monitor the performance of radio and television in various parts of Canada on various events. It is possible that they have sent these telegrams. I will transmit the question to the Secretary of State and if he sees anything that can be answered I am sure he will.