

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

stances at the moment I am not in a position to give more complete information in that regard.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Can the Solicitor General explain why the government has not acted on the suggestion made some time ago by the right hon. member for Prince Albert that a reward be offered, especially since in the course of the last week the government has been relying upon all resources of pursuit and there are indications that tips are now quite important to the police, as presumably they always have been?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the matter of a reward has daily been receiving very close attention. The decision not to offer an award was made in circumstances that were relevant from day to day but it was considered and was made for very good reasons that I will be happy to explain to the House as soon as we can do so.

**An hon. Member:** When?

**Mr. McIlraith:** The hon. member asks when. I am sorry I cannot give that information at the moment. The fact that warrants have been issued for the arrest of two persons has been well publicized. One cannot give information in the House of Commons that might be helpful to these persons, much as it might be attractive and desirable to do so. I regret being in this awkward position. I do not like it, but I believe there is an element of responsibility that must be exercised in these cases, however regrettable it may be that we cannot satisfy the curiosity of some hon. members.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I must say it is not at all clear to any of us why the offer of a reward should create any difficulty, but may I ask the Solicitor General this question: In view of the time which has elapsed and the difficulties to which he has referred, and in view of the experience of police forces in other parts of the world in connection with the detection and tracing of terrorists and kidnapers, have the Solicitor General, the government and the authorities generally brought in experts from around the world to assist in the pursuit?

**Mr. McIlraith:** We have some experts on this subject quite outside the police forces concerned and we have been using their services on different aspects of the investigation.

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** I appreciate the minister's difficulty with regard to giving details of what has been going on in the last week or so, but can he tell this House what federal initiatives, if any, were taken by himself and his law officers after receiving the information presented by Mayor Drapeau and Mr. Saulnier last December when they appeared before the committee investigating the Company of Young Canadians?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member will appreciate that the supplementary question is very much broader than the question originally asked by the Leader of the Opposition. It might be acceptable later, but not as a supplementary.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

**Mr. Nowlan:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it was because of the long and laborious answer given by the minister that this subject was opened up. I can appreciate his difficulties in pursuing the horrible criminals. I am trying to pursue the minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nowlan:** His laborious answer opened up this field, and I submit that my question is perfectly proper.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has an opinion and he is, of course, entitled to it. I do not think the question is a proper supplementary but I will return to the hon. member in due course.

**Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River):** Would the Prime Minister explain to the House on motions why the government did not decide to use the sedition act months ago when the FLQ was known to be in possession of large quantities of explosives?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I will be glad to consider that point if the hon. member will tell me what the sedition act is. I have never heard of such an act.

INFORMATION LEADING TO INVOKING OF WAR  
MEASURES ACT

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Last Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, as reported at page 427 of *Hansard*, I directed a question to the Prime Minister and the right hon. gentleman promised he would take it under consideration. My question arose out of the fact that at least three ministers, both inside the House and outside, have referred to confidential intelligence reports and evidence upon which they based their conclusion that a state of apprehended insurrection obtained in this country. I asked the Prime Minister at that time whether he was prepared to give the House such information or such evidence, or whether he felt it would be better to postpone any public statement until later. Is the Prime Minister now prepared to give this information to the leaders of the various parties? I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he would make a statement in the course of the next few days as to the course the government intends to pursue, whether he will give the House, either publicly or privately, the basis of the information upon which they took the step they did in determining there was a state of apprehended insurrection?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** By now I would have thought this information was in the hands of everybody. We have at various times explained why the War Measures Act was brought in at the time it was. The first fact was that there had been kidnappings of two very important people in Canada and that they were being held for ransom under threat of death. The second was that the government of the province of Quebec and the authorities of the city of Montreal asked the federal government to permit the use of exceptional measures