

Inquiries of the Ministry

Quebec would not have been formed with the idea of turning over powers to revolutionaries. Then, he is quoted as saying that conversations were held on this question not only in Montreal but in other parts of the province. I ask the Prime Minister whether it is a fact that the circumstances outlined by Mayor Drapeau, on which this House has received no information, are in accordance with the facts?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): He is asking if facts are in accordance with facts, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: This is a serious matter.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): You are Prime Minister; try to act like one!

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Prime Minister should cease to suffer from a dyspeptic annoyance with Parliament.

I ask him, was there such an arrangement among various people to form a provisional government in Quebec, and was it a fact that a revolution would have taken place within a matter of a very few hours apparently unless the War Measures Act were brought in? Can he tell us the truth for once in this House?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Silence is golden, but is the Prime Minister not going to tell the House the truth?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: He is silent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

WAR MEASURES ACT—SUGGESTED EARLY REVOCATION
IF DETENTIONS CONTINUE WITHOUT CHARGE

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I wish to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, but perhaps it could also be addressed to the Prime Minister. If the situation outlined continues whereby under the regulations passed under the War Measures Act people are being held without any charges against them and without the opportunity to consult their counsel, will the government give consideration to an early measure revoking the application of the War Measures Act?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): That is a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation.*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary to the Minister of Justice.

Has anyone told him that Michel Chartrand is being kept in jail to teach French and religion?

[*Mr. Diefenbaker.*]

INFORMATION LEADING TO INVOKING OF WAR
MEASURES ACT

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

For the benefit of hon. members, may I ask if the rumour about the formation of a provisional government was one of the valid arguments to justify the government's action in the crisis we are facing?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with all the patience of which I am capable, I shall repeat that the reasons why the government took its decision were stated in the House by myself many times. I want to point out that members of the opposition knew those reasons when 190 of them supported the government resolution against a dozen or so. It is for those same reasons that the people have given us their support ever since.

That other reasons may be bandied about as rumours or fantasies, or that the former Leader of the Opposition may himself have some information that is unknown to us, that is a question that some may wish to raise in the House. For our part, we have based our decision on the facts known to the people, of which we have informed the House, and which the opposition accepted when it voted in favour of our resolution. Those are the facts that remain.

Now, if the hon. members of the opposition wish to spread rumours, be they true or false or pure fantasy—

[*English.*]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Korchinski: Four ministers said there were more.

[*Translation.*]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary question.

As I referred to that rumour—since I believe that the establishment of a provisional government is but a rumour—and as the Prime Minister replied that in any case a rumour may be allowed to exist, can he assert that he considers the possibility of a provisional government nothing more than a rumour?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I replied to that question only the other day. I have several times given the three reasons for our move, the third being not only the disappearance of dynamite and arms but also the state of confusion and the forecasting of violence in the province of Quebec. Of course this state of confusion is interpreted by each in his own way. All I want to point out is that for the past few days it has not been the government but rather the opposition and the press gallery that have been launching other rumours. Let them take the responsibility for these and check their accuracy—

[*English.*]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, can the right hon. gentleman advise whether, before the imposition of the War Measures Act, he was categorically