

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether the question was asked of the Solicitor General. Even if the minister is the one who made the statement outside the House, the question would have to be asked of the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

Perhaps the hon. member could direct his question to the Prime Minister.

Mr. La Salle: Shall I repeat my question, Mr. Speaker?

I was asking the minister whether he was in a position to confirm the statement of a government member to University of Ottawa students yesterday to the effect that Paul Rose was chief organizer for a Parti Québécois candidate from the Montreal area during the last provincial elections? Can the minister tell whether Paul Rose's record—

Some hon. Members: Not chief!

Mr. La Salle: All right, not chief. I should like to know whether Paul Rose's record contains this information, since such a statement is in fact detrimental to the Parti Québécois. Could the minister give us some more information on this?

[English]

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of the alleged statement—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister is replying to the question. I am not sure that we are getting anywhere in trying to elucidate the very important point raised by the hon. member for Joliette.

[Translation]

It might be advisable for the hon. member to secure this information through another channel rather than by asking a question at this stage since we have only two minutes left before the question period ends. The hon. member might ask his question again on Monday.

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[English]

FINANCE**PRIME INTEREST RATE—ACTION TO BRING ABOUT REDUCTION**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Following his discussions with the presidents of the various chartered banks, who in effect thumbed their noses at his request for a reduction of interest rates, does he plan to take any action by way of legislation or otherwise?

[Mr. McIlraith.]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Toronto-Dominion Bank has lowered its prime rate. I am also informed that this morning the Royal Bank of Canada lowered its prime rate by half of one per cent.

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NATIONAL SECURITY**USE OF WAR MEASURES ACT TO CONTROL HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fears of many parents about incidents tomorrow, on Halloween, especially in Montreal and Ottawa—I except heavily guarded Rockcliffe from Ottawa—can the Prime Minister say whether the government is giving any special consideration to the taking of precautions under the War Measures Act?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of any. I know that local authorities have taken special precautions. If they need our help or if they need the assistance of the army, we will be glad to assist.

Mr. Bell: Perhaps the Solicitor General, who has a very special interest in Ottawa, can give us one of his helpful replies. Will he consider imposing an early curfew at least for Halloween under the War Measures Act?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I understand the concern behind this question. I do not believe it would be an appropriate use of the War Measures Act to declare this kind of curfew in the several cities across Canada on Halloween. However, I should add that the authorities in several municipalities to my knowledge have been quite concerned about this and have taken action within the authority they already have to quieten the activities of very young people on Halloween.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**INVESTIGATION OF SHOOTING OF YOUTH NEAR SASKATOON**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General. On October 20 the minister said his department was investigating the incident of a 15-year old youth being shot to death by an RCMP officer near Saskatoon. Has the minister completed his investigation? If so, can he inform the House of the results?