

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and ways in which it could be remedied. I am not suggesting that nothing can be done or should be done until the provinces sit down here and meet with us.

PROPOSED MEETING OF FIRST MINISTERS TO DISCUSS  
WINTER WORKS PROGRAMS—REPRESENTATION FOR  
MUNICIPALITIES

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** In view of the fact that the government has laid great stress on the importance of tri-level conferences, particularly in future decisions affecting cities, has it been the intention of the Prime Minister or has he requested that the provinces request the presence of representatives from the cities at this meeting?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the question of representation of the cities was brought up at a conference in Winnipeg which was convened by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. We still have not reached a final set of arrangements with the provinces on the participation of municipalities at federal-provincial conferences. We have, however, certainly taken initiatives which may some day bring a solution to this problem. Once again, this is in the hands of the provinces under whose jurisdiction municipal law lies.

UNEMPLOYMENT—DISCUSSION WITH PREMIERS OF  
TOLERABLE WINTER LEVEL IN CONNECTION WITH  
PROPOSED CONFERENCE

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if the government has agreed on an objective of what it considers to be a tolerable level of unemployment for the winter? Can the Prime Minister tell the House if this objective of tolerable unemployment has been discussed with the premiers in connection with the federal-provincial conference?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. It is our object to bring unemployment to as low a level as possible but in my letter and communication with the premiers there was no percentage suggested, if that is what the hon. member is inquiring about.

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• (2:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY ARMED FORCES IN EVENT  
OF STRIKE BY QUEBEC PROVINCIAL POLICE

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

Since Quebec Provincial Police officers decided, last night, to carry on with their study session, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether, on the one hand, the Quebec Attorney General has contacted him to seek the services of the Armed Forces, if required, and, on the other hand, whether Quebec may count on such services, should the Quebec Attorney General request them?

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**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my reply to the second part of the question can really not go beyond what is stipulated in the act itself, i.e. that if the Attorney General of the province requests the services of the Army as provided for by the act, the federal government has no alternative but to supply the services of the Army and also to send an invoice.

As for assistance at the level of the federal police force, I know federal services would be willing to assist, as much as possible, in the maintaining of order in the province of Quebec. However, we have absolutely no intention to interfere in matters of strike settlement between the provincial authorities and an organization of workers coming under their jurisdiction.

**Mr. La Salle:** May I put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker? I would ask the Prime Minister whether the federal government has decided nevertheless to send troops to Quebec in case of needs?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I understood that I was asked if we had decided to send troops. I answered that if the provincial Attorney General formally asked for the despatch of troops, we would have no other choice and the troops would be used, as requested by the provincial Attorney General.

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[English]

FINANCE

CANADIAN INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL  
MONETARY REFORM

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance in Washington, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister. Is the government of Canada presenting any specific Canadian proposals to achieve international monetary reform as a way to get rid of the United States surcharge? If so, may we expect a statement from the government in the House before the return of the Minister of Finance, or just what will be the position? I am sure the House would like to know whether there are any Canadian initiatives. This question follows on the question I asked last week.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are participating in all the meetings of the Group of Ten, of the IMF and of the Commonwealth finance ministers and, of course we are using what knowledge we have of the monetary system and suggesting ways in which it might be improved. However, I would not want the House or the hon. member to believe that we have in our briefs some sure cure replacement for the gold standard or the dollar standard or that we have thought up some new scheme which would be acceptable for the world.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance in an interview discussed wider fixed margins or a moving average. Are these part of the proposals that Canada is making or is there some other formula that Canada might put forward for discussion?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, these proposals have been looked at by Canada and by other countries. I am not sure