Inquiries of the Ministry

In view of the serious financial problems the government must face and the many restrictions Canadians will have to support, can the Minister of Finance tell us where he will find the funds to supply over \$100 million to Great Britain?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think this question is in order. It is much too general in character and could easily be put when we are considering the budget in a few days.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Prime Minister stated upon his arrival in London that Canada will supply more than \$100 million to Great Britain within a few days. It seems to me that the minister could tell us, for instance, whether these \$100 million will be taken from the funds of the Bank of Canada?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this does not involve any drain upon the Canadian treasury or upon the Canadian people at the present time. It is the pledging of credits through the International Monetary Fund and through the central banks to support the pound. I do not anticipate that the money will be needed.

NATIONAL SECURITY

DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLETS RESPECTING SEPARATIST GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I should like to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that pamphlets are presently being distributed in Quebec by the F.L.Q. urging separatists to form Cuban-style guerrilla bands in the backwoods for armed raids on Quebec cities and towns and giving specific instructions in the handling and acquisition of arms, would the minister inform the house of the results of his promised careful investigation of Cuban radio and other subversive activities of a similar nature?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I will, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us now whether he has any information that these pamphlets are emanating from the Cuban embassy here in Ottawa?

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Mr. Thompson: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the minister of defence whether his department has located the arms stolen recently from the Winnipeg armories, or whether he has any news to report on this incident.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I gather that the question was asked and the matter discussed at the time of adjournment a few days ago.

[Translation]

SHIPPING

MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the lay-off of 130 longshoremen in the port of Montreal yesterday, and the serious difficulties resulting from the rigid application by shipowners of certain recommendations of the Picard report?

Has the minister received communications either from longshoremen or shipowners, and what are his intentions in this matter? Is it his intention to intervene in this difficulty?

[English]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): I know there are problems with regard to the port which are not new but which have been developing over recent days. I know every effort is being made to bring the parties together in the hope that the movement through the port can be re-established to its proper level so that shippers will be able to rely on the effectiveness of the operations of the port. I sincerely hope this can be achieved, because Montreal is one of the most important outlets of Canadian produce and anything that detracts from its effectiveness would have long range consequences which would be detrimental to all of Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Could the minister tell us if he intends to intervene before the conflict turns into a general strike? Does he not feel that it would be appropriate for the government to consider the possibility of keeping the port of Montreal open during the winter?