

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Baldwin: Start from square one.

Mr. Speaker: I would not think this is a supplementary question. This question might be asked a little later during the proceedings.

Mr. Woolliams: If that does not affect the economics of the country, nothing does.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Would he have his research staff read the report of the Barber Commission so that his knowledge of the prices of tractors might be more accurate?

IMMIGRATION

DEPORTATION OF DESERTERS FROM U.S.
ARMED FORCES

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Solicitor General; I have given him notice of its general nature. In view of the allegations made on a television program last night that officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia acted illegally in deporting three young Americans without any deportation order or other authority, has the minister instituted a further and fuller inquiry into this shocking incident and, if so, has he received a fuller report than the one he was good enough to communicate to me by letter on February 3?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I regret I did not see the television show on this subject that was put on last night.

Mr. Woolliams: They said you didn't tell the truth.

Mr. McIlraith: I am advised it was quite inaccurate in parts of it. As to the subject matter the hon. member is concerned with, I did institute an investigation of the matter when I had some correspondence from him, for which I thank him for giving me notice, and I gave him a reply on Friday. The TV show was on Sunday night and I instituted a further investigation this morning as to the allegations, some of which were also contained in some material which the hon. member supplied to me and which again is not accurate in part. That second inquiry is not yet completed. I do not have the final report on the part arising out of some things said on the television program last night.

Mr. Hees: Once again but more slowly, George.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I do not blame the minister for not having seen the program last night. I only envy him for the reason he was unable to see it. I want to ask him this very serious question: in view of the conflicting allegations, and in view of the fact that the minister says reports were inaccurate merely on information he has received from his officers, who are not disinterested in this situation—

Mr. McIlraith: And my personal staff.

Mr. Lewis:—and in view of the fact that it is important that officers of the RCMP act legally and not as agents of foreign authorities, will the minister undertake to appoint a judge or other disinterested person to make a full and independent inquiry into the facts so that he may be in a position to report fully to the House and to take whatever action those facts require?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, but what I will undertake to do is to complete the investigation so that I can report fully to the hon. member and to the House. I am informed that these three youths were not deported and that there was no action that could be called into question. There is a sharp difference between the allegations and the part of the investigation I have completed now, and until it is fully completed I do not know that there is much use in pursuing the matter. Rather than appoint someone to conduct an inquiry now I want to complete the investigation, and I will give the hon. member and the House a report on it.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the minister whether he can assure the House that he can rely on the information he will receive from officers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would not think the question the hon. member is asking now is in order.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer, with your permission I should like to raise the question at the time of adjournment.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister makes his full report would he make sure he does not do it on a short day?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!