

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Forrestall:** Mr. Speaker, I have questions dated February 11 and February 24, being questions Nos. 607 and 824 on the order paper, to both of which I am most anxious to receive answers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION**

**THREATENED STRIKE OF TORONTO  
PRODUCERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, having regard to the fact that apparently negotiations or discussions between the producers and the C.B.C. president and management have broken down, and the fact that there has been a virtual ultimatum that on Sunday at 10 p.m., unless the request of the producers has been met, there may well be a strike, I should like to ask the Prime Minister what action the government intends to take to bring about the assurance that these negotiations will continue? What representations, if any, again consistent with the legislation setting up the C.B.C., has the government made? The Prime Minister said yesterday that he was very anxious and willing to use his good offices in this.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, paraphrasing the reply to this question yesterday, I think I said that naturally the government was anxious to do what it could to help in this regard, subject to the desirability of not intervening in the affairs of the C.B.C. My right hon. friend will know the difficulty in respect of government action in a matter of this kind, as it relates to a crown corporation.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that a committee of the house is considering this matter today. It has before it a resolution on the very point my right hon. friend referred to, and I should like to wait to see what the committee does with that resolution this afternoon before I say anything more.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister say what that resolution is to which he made reference?

**Mr. Pearson:** I think the resolution deals with the possibility of the government's intervening, in order to bring about a solution of this difficulty.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

**WINTER WORKS**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PERIOD**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the future minister of manpower.

In view of the fact that the winter works period is drawing to a close and in view of the fact that several municipalities could not complete their works due to the severe weather conditions which prevailed in several regions of this country, can the minister tell the house today whether he proposes to extend the winter works period in those regions where the said works could not be completed?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is not the intention of the department to extend the winter works period.

**Mr. Grégoire:** As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, has the minister received any requests from municipalities about this extension? Does he not think there is discrimination against the regions where weather conditions are unfavourable to winter works?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's question is out of order.

[English]

**PRIVILEGE**

**MR. LAMBERT—INABILITY TO OBTAIN  
ELECTORAL COMMISSION REPORTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege arising out of proceedings in this house. I have just been handed the replies to questions Nos. 202 and 212, which incidentally have been on the order paper since January 24. In order to establish my point of privilege, which affects not only myself but hon. members of the house generally, may I read the answer which has come to both questions:

The commissions set up under the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act do not report to the government so that the government does not have records giving the information sought in this question. Under section 10 of the act the commissions are not agencies of Her Majesty. Reports of the commissions are made directly to the House of Commons.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the questions that have been put by myself and other members of the house, particularly by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Bell), have been answered in the same vein, and