

Inquiries of the Ministry

proposals for the Canadian National Exhibition that might have been made to the Canadian government.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. McIntosh: On a point of order—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McIntosh: Seeing he mentioned my name, and he being a new member in this house—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McIntosh: Just a moment. The hon. member, being a new member here, should be acquainted with the rules and regulations of this house, and as you know well, Mr. Speaker—and maybe he does not know,—any question at this period in the day should be of national importance and of urgency and—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McIntosh: —and as I said before—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McIntosh: —I think it is your duty, sir—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to complete his remarks. I have the impression that what he is saying would be of interest to many members of the house.

Mr. Baldwin: My supplementary question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Would he use his good offices to make sure that the members of parliament from metropolitan Toronto are given the freedom asked by the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) to make representations in standing committees regarding matters such as this?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Most certainly, yes, Mr. Speaker; and I agree that a renewed, revitalized, modern Canadian National Exhibition is a matter of national concern and interest.

Mr. Hees: Then would the minister answer my question? Is the government going to fulfil the pledge of the former prime minister to give this great national exhibition the financial assistance it has asked for?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the impression that this question has given us enough difficulty this morning. The right hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

[Mr. Danson.]

TELEVISION

TRANSACTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND GEOFFREY STIRLING

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether representatives of the C.R.T.C. discussed the ethics of any transaction between Geoffrey Stirling and a minister of the Crown.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I really do not know, but I will refer the question to the responsible minister.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would think the Acting Prime Minister should be responsible. However my question is this: Why is it that the minister who had this question put to him several months ago did not come up with an answer? I suggest this question cannot be ruled out of order because the ethics of a cabinet minister are of urgent national importance. I ask just what he is hiding.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, because of the urgency and importance of the ethics of any cabinet minister. This is a question which has been before this house on a number of occasions. If the ministers in the cabinet do not feel the ethics of any of their colleagues is their responsibility, then I think it is time this government took the responsibility and came forward with the truth. If need be, this urgent and national question will be put before them every week.

Mr. Hellyer: On the same point of order—

Mr. Speaker: This is not a point of order. The hon. member knows similar questions have been raised before. My feeling has always been that if a member wishes to make a charge against another member on one side of the house or the other there is a way to do it, according to the rules. For the protection of all members on both sides of the house I think we should adhere to the rules in this regard.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I too, think the ethics of ordinary members of parliament are important. I think for ordinary members of parliament to commit character assassination through innuendo is beneath contempt.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege