

Inquiries of the Ministry

TENDERS TO REPLACE ROD SERVICE

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Postmaster General indicated that Rod Service were withdrawing their operation and that the government was presently negotiating with another company. Can he tell the house whether these services were put out to tender?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, we have simply indicated that we will be quite happy if some other private entrepreneurs or cartage companies are interested. Approximately three firms are looking at the matter, but how many will come forward with firm propositions we do not yet know. They would of course have to be satisfactory to Treasury Board as well as to the Post Office Department.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AID

VIET NAM—HOUSING PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is it true that the Canadian government intends to contribute to the financing of a housing project for Vietnamese refugees and, if so, how much and under what conditions?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that this question could be placed on the order paper.

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—STUDY AS TO PROFITABILITY

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

On March 12, the minister announced in the house that a study was in progress to establish the economic possibilities of the Canadian textile industry. Is he now in a position to say when he expects to report on it in the house?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker. The project is likely to be carried out before the end of the year. I am seeing to it that it is completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Ricard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Would the minister tell us if representatives of the Canadian manufacturers and workers have been invited to participate in that study?

Mr. Pepin: They shall be, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ARTEC—ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO SIGNING OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

Mr. Paul M. Gervais (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour—

[Translation]

Some hon. Members: In French.

Mr. Gervais: All right, I will speak in French. I do not mind.

Could the Minister of Labour tell the house whether there are recent developments concerning the difficulties with the C.B.C.?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to tell the house that ARTEC and the C.B.C. signed this morning a collective agreement, in order to settle the problem.

[English]

"AIR OF DEATH"—COMPETENCE OF C.R.T.C. TO ADJUDICATE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Secretary of State but in his absence perhaps it could be answered or taken as notice by the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary.

With regard to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission hearing into the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation program "Air of Death" and the allegation by counsel for the C.B.C. that only the courts and not the C.R.T.C. have the power in law to adjudicate questions of this kind, has the government sought an opinion from the law officers of the crown respecting the legal competence of the C.R.T.C. in such matters, and has such an opinion been given?

Mr. Robert Stanbury (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I know of no opinion being sought by the government but I am sure that such an opinion would be sought by the commission itself. I shall be glad to inquire from the commission on that subject.

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In connection with the "Air of