

Inquiries of the Ministry
PUBLIC SERVICE

METHOD OF REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL

the CBC favourable to states such as the Soviet Union and China as opposed to the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: I have no such plan in mind, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that Mr. Davidson has intimated, in a statement, that he would not take into account what the Prime Minister has said and that he would carry on with the planning of CBC programs as he thinks best, does the Prime Minister intend to take any action against Mr. Davidson who was appointed by the present government?

Mr. Trudeau: I have no inclination to do that, Mr. Speaker, but I should be pleased to receive representations from hon. members in that connection, if they feel that I should do it.

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

**RESERVE FORCES—CONSULTATION WITH
 DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS RESPECTING
 STRENGTH**

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Since the minister made his statement with regard to reductions in the Armed Forces of Canada, both regular and militia, a little over a month ago, has he had consultation with the defence associations in connection with the strength and organization of our militia forces in the future? If so, can he indicate when he will be in a position to make a statement to the House as to what the future organization of our militia will be?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we had many consultations with the defence associations, the last one being held on Monday of this week in the conference room at the Defence Department. It was a very fruitful meeting. I am sure that eventually we are going to produce a plan to which we both agree, but this of course will depend on many circumstances. However, I think there is hope that within three weeks to one month this matter will be finalized.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. In carrying out the government's plan to reduce the Civil Service by 25,000 has the government given consideration to allowing the normal attrition of 10½ per cent per year to do the job in one year and four months, as it would do, instead of dismissing a large number of people who are senior in years and who must retire on inadequate pensions because they will be unable to find other jobs?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, a great deal of consideration has been given to that. The figure of 25,000, as has been abundantly explained, is one which comprises those who would be released by attrition, plus those positions that would not be filled and for which there has been establishment, as well as those who would be dismissed. The figure of 25,000 comprises all these classes.

Mr. Hees: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, may I take it that it is the government's plan not to fire any civil servants but to allow attrition alone to look after the lessening of the numbers of civil servants, something which the Prime Minister and the government have expressed their intention of doing?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: As a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister explain to the country just what the hell he intends to do?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Benson: Why don't you listen?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

BEEF

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF PRICES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the statement made yesterday by the Ontario Minister of Agriculture that retailers are not passing on to the consumers the recent reductions in the producer price of beef, will the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs initiate a full investigation into beef prices as I urged as far back as June 16?