

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the strike been abandoned? Have the government and the Postmaster General abandoned the intention to prosecute any of the workers?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, on the first question, to my knowledge the matter has not been abandoned. On the second question, the Postmaster General said this was an option open to him, and if the strike is declared illegal this course will be left open to him. That does not mean he will exercise his option; but the provisions of the law remain open to him.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I remind hon. members that we should allow as many hon. members as possible to participate in the question period and we should not, as has been happening during this last week, spend too much time of our 40 minute period on one or two subjects. Dissatisfaction with this has been expressed by hon. members of all parties, who are anxious to ask questions they consider important. I think we might proceed to another subject. I will not forget that the hon. member wished to ask a supplementary question. Perhaps we shall have time later in which he may ask it.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ARTEC—GUIDELINES IN PUBLIC SERVICE DISPUTES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister about the dispute going on between the C.B.C. and the Association of Radio and Television Employees of Canada. As the report of the conciliation board stated that C.B.C. representatives were adamant in insisting they could not break the so called guidelines for public service employees, may I ask if guidelines have been established for public service employees. If so, will the Prime Minister be prepared to table the directives and correspondence sent to Crown agencies like the C.B.C.?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there are no such guidelines compelling any public body to follow certain specific economic figures or percentages. Last summer we indicated that there was a danger of adding to inflationary pressure by excessive increases in any field, but except in that very general sense there are no guidelines.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the Prime Minister is now saying there are no salary or wage guidelines with respect to any percentage increase which may be granted to public service employees, are we to take it that the representatives of the C.B.C. who appeared before the conciliation board were not making statements in accordance with the facts, and were hiding behind some assumed guidelines which do not really exist?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what the representatives said. We, of course, cannot dictate to the Crown corporation what its terms of settlement are to be. But when the Crown corporation comes to the government for money, it will be met with certain demands and certain exigencies on the part of the government to prevent inflationary increases. Perhaps in this sense the Crown corporations are guiding themselves on what they think is plausible and acceptable. But there is no specific recommendation here on our part.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask another supplementary question. With regard to the percentage of increases in the total wage bill this Crown corporation may have at its disposal, have no salary guidelines been set by the government, or Treasury Board on behalf of the government?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, there have been no specific guidelines as to specific salary increases. Of course the over-all budget of the Crown corporation is determined in government estimates; and in this sense I suppose there are very general guidelines. But there is no specific guideline attached to salary increases.

[Translation]

EXHIBITIONS

INQUIRY AS TO CONTINUING "MAN AND HIS WORLD"

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

Can the minister tell us whether the negotiations with the Quebec government on the financing of "Man and His World" are now over and, if so, what are the most recent concrete proposals of the federal government in the matter?