

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, we have been laughing a lot about this and I can appreciate there might be something humorous in it were it not for the fact that the taxpayers' money is being spent on something that is vulgar and distasteful to almost every Canadian in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the point made by the hon. member but I think it is a point of argument. Perhaps the Prime Minister might be allowed to reply to the question but my thought was, and I think I was right, that the way the question was asked by the hon. member was by way of a protest in the same way as the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North is doing now. I do not want to be unfair. If the right hon. Prime Minister feels he should reply to the question he may do so.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As the House knows, Mr. Speaker, when we introduced legislation on this subject it had to do with consenting adults in private. I am not quite sure whether television would be looking at that aspect of it. As one hon. member behind me said, maybe the whole thing is a fairy tale. I do not know.

Mr. Baldwin: It is more likely a catastrophe.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, may I point out to you that the member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys said to the Minister of Transport that he must know something about homosexuality. It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that this is the kind of slur which should be withdrawn by the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It would appear that my original judgment might have been justified to some extent and that we might have left well enough alone. I think the hon. members really intended to raise the matter by way of protest and I think they have to assume that their protest has been noted.

Mr. Muir: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege? The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North.

Mr. Coates: On the question of privilege, I still do not believe we have had a satisfactory answer from the government in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Coates: I am sorry that the Secretary of State is not here because he is the logical person to make the CBC aware of the feelings of the House with regard to this program in prime family viewing time. I believe that the government should give an indication to the CBC that this House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That, of course, is not a question of privilege. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys is rising on a point of order. I would hope that after this, in the three minutes left, we might try to get two or three questions before we call orders of the day.

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, I shall not have very much to say but I have a question of privilege. I can only say this to you, sir, that I have the highest regard for the Minister of Transport. In every way possible he is a real man—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Watch your fanmail now, Don.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I really think we might go on to another subject. It is my impression that this subject has been exhausted. Order, please. I do not think much can be gained by pursuing the matter. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys has a right to raise a point of order or question of privilege, but I hope we can go on to other matters as quickly as possible.

Mr. Muir: I should like to finish my question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. All I can say is that if other hon. gentlemen across the way would take the Minister of Transport as an example with regard to his activities and his actions in this House we would have a better House and a better government. With regard to the utterances by the Prime Minister, I leave that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Muir: I have a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I thought the hon. member had expressed his question of privilege. I really suggest to the hon. member that he has made his point, and I wonder whether he would not agree that we are not helping the situation by prolonging the matter much longer.

Some hon. Members: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Muir: With regard to the utterances and actions of the Prime Minister, I leave that to the people of Canada to judge.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

* * *

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**QUEBEC—REPRESENTATIONS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—COMPENSATION FOR HOG AND EGG PRODUCER'S LOSSES**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but I have to wait until he has resumed his seat.

To a question which I addressed to him yesterday, the minister replied that he had not understood its meaning. I therefore gave him notice.

Here is my question: Has the Minister of Agriculture received from his Quebec counterpart a request inviting the federal government to compensate the loss of \$16 million incurred by Quebec hog, egg and turkey producers over the last 12 months?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture for Quebec has made some representations to me and has outlined the problem of