

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON INTEGRATION
OF DEPARTMENTS OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
AND INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House what he had in mind when he said in the course of a CTV interview last night that he endorsed the integration of the operations of his department with those of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that the regular way to inquire about statements made outside the House is to ask the leader of the government whether those alleged statements represent government policy. Perhaps the question might be phrased in those terms.

Mr. Hees: Very well, Mr. Speaker, I shall bow to your ruling and ask the Prime Minister—after his rapid consultation with the minister concerned—whether his colleague was voicing government policy when he made the statement to which I have referred?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, an attempt is being made by the government through its officials to study this matter and come to grips with the question whether or not it would be useful to integrate government personnel working abroad. We have no set position on it yet. The Secretary of State for External Affairs was posing the question and indicating one of his views as to the way in which it might be answered, but there is no firm government policy on this yet.

BROADCASTING

EFFECT OF CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION
COMMISSION REGULATIONS ON FREE PUB-
LICITY FOR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. Will the Secretary of State investigate complaints sent to members of this House by the Canadian Red Cross, the United Appeal Association and other charitable organizations with respect to regulations by the CRTC which will allegedly come into effect tomorrow and, if he thinks it advisable, will he take appropriate action? It is complained that these regulations would almost completely eliminate the free publicity at present being given by radio stations to these voluntary

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Inquiries of the Ministry

public service organizations which are so essential to the health and welfare of Canadians.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): In the opinion of the CRTC, Mr. Speaker, the probable result of these new regulations will certainly not be as described by the hon. member. If he wants to know the reasons for these proposals, the document in which they have been explained by the CRTC has been made public and he can obtain a copy any-time he wants.

I should like to add only that when the CRTC announces certain proposed regulations, that is the same thing for the Commission as a white paper for the government. This is why such an announcement is inevitably followed by hearings open to anyone wishing to voice objections against proposed regulations.

[English]

Mr. Nesbitt: In view of that reply, perhaps the minister could tell us why the Red Cross and the United Appeal Association of Canada take a view of the regulations different from that taken by the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

STATUS OF CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION
COMMISSION PRONOUNCEMENTS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Did I understand from the minister's answer that the pronouncements of the CRTC are to be considered as a white paper on broadcasting policy by the government?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Not the pronouncements nor the decisions. I think the hon. member did not hear me well. Guidelines on programming have now been published by the CRTC and arrangements have been made for a hearing on the 16th. Obviously, since there is to be this hearing, we are not dealing with provisions which have been permanently adopted by the CRTC but with the general direction of their thinking on the basis of the studies they have been conducting. The commission has indicated that anybody in the country, particularly, of course those who are directly interested who wish to do so, can have a full day in court to tell the CRTC that it is not going in the right direction. I should not like to leave the House with the impression that when a document of that nature goes out from the CRTC, that is