

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Nowlan: I appreciate you ruling on the question, Mr. Speaker, but I just wanted to bring it to the attention of the Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister consider that a man who was the founder of the Quebec Liberal Party in 1955, and served as chairman of the propaganda and publicity committee as set out in *Who's Who*, could be an objective, non-partisan head of the new service called Information Canada to allay the suspicions of many people in this country that it is going to be a propaganda tool?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not concerned with allaying suspicions which are clearly unfounded. Mr. Jean-Louis Gagnon is a very distinguished journalist and has been honoured as such by his fellow members of the press in this country. He has performed an excellent job as a royal commissioner, and whether or not he was active in politics ten years ago to me is irrelevant.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Has the government decided what it is going to do with the third report of the B and B Commission; and if that decision runs counter to the report, what is the position of Mr. Gagnon?

Mr. Trudeau: He would be in the position of other royal commissioners whose reports are not implemented. The question is purely hypothetical but that would be his experience, and it would not be unusual for royal commissioners to be in that position.

SOCIAL SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the minister now undertake to table in the House early after we return in April the white paper on social security, so that we can get moving on old age pensions and the war veterans allowance?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the white paper will be ready by the time the hon. member indicated.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. When does the Minister of National Health and Welfare believe the white paper will be ready?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Munro: The only assurance I can give, Mr. Speaker, is that it will be ready before the end of this session.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will it be in time for any action to be taken on it during this session?

Mr. Munro: I do not believe so, Mr. Speaker.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

LEGISLATION RESPECTING NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Government House Leader. Has he, as a good little Easter bunny, any news for us about the status of our national anthem and the state of negotiations between the government and members of the Weir family with regard to releasing it, so that Canadians can have a national anthem in fact and in law?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that one of the other bunnies will have an opportunity during the recess to discuss this matter with the people involved.

Mr. Forrestall: No progress!

[Translation]

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—EFFECT ON ECONOMY OF QUEBEC

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Has he received any criticisms from the opposition leader in the Quebec legislature (Mr. Bourassa) who recognized at last that the white paper contains some proposals that will run counter to the best economic interests of the Quebec people?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think the question as asked is in order. The hon. member is asking whether the minister has received a letter from the leader of a provincial party. It seems to me that the question as put is not in order. The hon. member could perhaps seek to obtain this piece of information by rephrasing his question.