December 5, 1968

Inquiries of the Ministry

in Montreal?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, in order to know the exact date, I would have to ask the C.B.C. Up to now, I know the contracts have been signed and the work should begin at any time now. I cannot give a specific date as requested by the hon. member, unless the information is given to me by the C.B.C. to which I shall direct the question.

Mr. Valade: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to clear up the matter.

Since the minister replied on November 7 that it would be on December 1, would he be prepared to correct his statement and make another one as soon as possible in order to announce a definite date?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I have already answered to that question and said to the hon. member that I was going to ask the C.B.C. about the exact date. If I am told by the C.B.C. that a date has been set, I shall give this answer to the hon. member, who knows full well that the Secretary of State does not make such decisions, as the C.B.C. is a crown corporation.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, another supplementary question.

Could the Secretary of State tell us why he undertook during the election campaign to set the date on which the work would begin in November 1968?

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

REPORT OF TASK FORCE INVESTIGATING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the reports in this morning's press regarding the alleged contents of the Woods report, would the minister inform the house whether he has received the report of the task force and whether he will table that report for the information of hon. members?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, this task force to investigate industrial relations was set up on December 13, 1966, and it will no doubt table its report to the Privy Council office. I have given to the members of this house, will the made an investigation, since I too read that minister make inquiries and find out why this

work will be started at Place Radio-Canada morning report, and find the official report of the Woods task force will not be the hands of the Privy Council office until the last week of December. I presume that the article in question, which was written by one of Canada's foremost labour reporters, is probably based on some working papers that came into his hands by means unknown to the Minister of Labour.

> Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question. Will the minister assure the house that the report will be tabled? I understand, of course, that this body is a task force rather than a royal commission. I think this is a matter of great importance and that the report should be tabled in parliament, and I am wondering whether the minister would undertake to do so when the report is filed with the Privy Council office.

> Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I imagine this report is of importance not only to the Department of Labour but also to the departments of manpower and industry. I must remind the hon. gentleman that in the final analysis the decision to table it will be a matter for the Prime Minister himself.

> Mr. Lewis: Then may I address my supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he could assure the house that the report of the Woods task force will be tabled. May I also ask him whether he will consider publishing and tabling some of the more important studies that were made for use by the task force.

> Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly consider both those suggestions, and with the advice of the minister will decide whether the report should be tabled. I think it would be unwise to make a blanket statement of principle, before reading the document, that it is in the interest of Canadians to table it. My hunch is that it will be, but I really cannot answer without knowing what is in it.

> Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the very detailed and lengthy report given on pages 1 and 2 of this morning's Globe and Mail by Wilfred List, which makes it very evident that a great deal of information has been leaked to the press in advance of being