

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**PURCHASE OF TROPICAL PLANTS FOR NEW FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OFFICES**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct my question to the Minister of Finance but in his absence I will direct it to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of information just revealed in the supplementary estimates indicating that the Minister of Finance has authorized his department to purchase \$75,000 worth of real or natural tropical plants from the United States to be used in the new offices of the Department of Finance in the Bell Building on Elgin Street—

Mr. Baldwin: They are lemons.

Mr. Hales: —may I ask the President of the Treasury Board if he will look into this incident—

An hon. Member: That's flower power.

Mr. Hales: —in the hope of stopping this extravagant waste of the taxpayers' money?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think that probably that question can more usefully be explored in committee when the subject of estimates is discussed.

Mr. Hees: Oh, come on now.

Mr. Drury: I can say for the benefit of the hon. member from the Lake Ontario region that this is part of a rather more economical method of providing partitions and is known as office landscaping.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Do you have any horses on the payroll?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to provide those who still live in the last century with information.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, the minister said that this matter might be examined in committee. I understand that it was examined in committee. If the department insists that these plants be real or natural rather than artificial, would the minister make sure that they are bought in Canada? I can inform him that there is a company in Dundas, Ontario, from which they are available.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member's representation has been noted.

Mr. Baldwin: There will be a rose for every taxpayer.

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SHIPPING**MAINTENANCE OF SERVICE ON WEST COAST OF
VANCOUVER ISLAND**

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport on the

[Mr. Trudeau.]

matter of subsidies to coastal ship services in Canada, with particular reference to the service on the west coast of Vancouver Island which is slated to be withdrawn on December 31. Will the minister use his good offices with the Canadian Transport Commission to make sure that this essential service is maintained at least until some alternative method of transportation is available for the communities involved, inasmuch as at present they have no other means of getting in their supplies?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I was under the impression on the basis of information provided by the Canadian Transport Commission that alternative means of transportation were available. If the situation is as my hon. friend describes it, for a short period of time it may be possible to cover that hiatus through continuation, but the matter is one that rests entirely with the CTC.

Mr. Barnett: I will discuss this at ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

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• (2:50 p.m.)

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**PROGRAM INVOLVING HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE
BETWEEN MALES**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State who reports to the House for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation I should like to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Hees: Take it easy, now.

Mr. Muir: My question deals with a program using taxpayers' money to be telecast tonight on the CBC and involving a homosexual marriage between two males. In view of the fact this is a half hour program in prime network time—

Mr. Jamieson: Do they need more time?

Mr. Muir: That is pretty good, Don. You must know something about it. May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether this program is intended as entertainment or propaganda?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have very serious doubts about the way the question is asked. I would doubt that the hon. member would expect a reply to that question.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North rises on a point of order.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege relates to the question asked by the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys of the Prime Minister with regard to a CBC program which is going to be produced tonight, has been advertised, and involves a so-called marriage between two homosexuals of the CBC—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!