

• (11:20 a.m.)

TELEVISION

PROVISION FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE TO GREY CUP TELECAST

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-238, to secure freedom of choice in television viewing.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, the bill requires the Board of Broadcast Governors to choose one of the two networks in Canada to telecast the Grey Cup football game. It gives the board the power to direct that stations and satellites of the other network be added so there can be the same coverage there is now, but cuts out duplication and thus brings relief to about 80 per cent of all Canadians.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

APPROVAL OF ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO REMOVAL OF COAT OF ARMS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. I should like to ask him, in view of the fact that he has not chosen to make a statement regarding a matter that is being widely discussed, whether the announcement by the Post Office Department that the coat of arms and crown would be removed from post office vehicles and equipment was approved by the minister and the cabinet. In addition, was the action of the official in the Postmaster General's office, who at the same time delivered to the press a copy of the new symbol, being a maple leaf with the letters "C.P." superimposed on it, cleared by the minister and the cabinet?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, that matter will be dealt with in my statement, which I intend to give on Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ACTION FOLLOWING REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government has yet made a decision as to what disposition it will make of the excellent report filed by the committee on

Inquiries of the Ministry

election expenses. Is it the intention of the government to refer the report to the committee on privileges and elections, or does the government intend to prepare legislation and have the house refer the bill to the committee on privileges and elections?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a notice on the order paper dealing with the reference of this report.

[*Translation*]

BRIDGES

CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE, MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TOLLS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Transport, but in his absence I shall put it to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Can the right hon. Prime Minister tell the house whether he intends to act upon the request of the truckers association for removal of tolls on Champlain bridge in Montreal.

[*English*]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to discuss this matter with the minister, and perhaps he will be able to report early in the week.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RHODESIA—REPORTED AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES TO END DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister any comment to make on the statement of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith to the effect that the Rhodesian and British governments have agreed on the six principles laid down by Harold Wilson as a basis for ending the Rhodesian independence dispute?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the statement attributed to Mr. Smith—the statement he is supposed to have made on the radio—but I would want to see the statement in full. I would want to know the reaction of the government that has direct authority in this matter, which is the British government, before I make any comment.

Mr. Johnston: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Smith has also referred to the possibility of his country's ejection from