

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Acting Prime Minister that I have seen the press release which he is now tabling, and I am sure all other members have seen it. As a supplementary question I would like to ask him whether his answer to my first question means that he refuses on his behalf and on behalf of the Minister of Finance to make a statement on motions to the House so that we can get more details?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly suggest to the Minister of Finance, if it is the wish of the House, that he should make a statement on this important matter. Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some misunderstanding, reflected in the question of the hon. member, about a time limit being involved. There is no time limit in the legislation, and there has been no extension of time given.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister's answer clearly shows that a clarifying statement would be useful. As a further supplementary I would like to ask whether the necessary Order in Council has been passed in relation to some of the details of the arrangements made with Mercantile Bank and, if so, would he table the Order in Council?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice. I am not quite certain.

* * *

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PROGRAM "WEEKEND" AND LAPORTE MURDER SUSPECTS
—AVOIDANCE OF ABUSE OF DUE PROCESS OF LAW

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice and of the new Solicitor General perhaps I could direct this question to the Secretary of State. In light of last night's trial by cartoon of the Laporte murder suspects on the CBC program "Weekend", can the minister inform the House whether the CBC is prepared to extend the self-imposed restraint it exhibited during the kidnapping crisis to avoid abusing due process of law in Quebec at this time?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I shall take note of the question, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

PROPOSED AM AND FM NATIONAL NETWORKS

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Has the government now determined whether the CBC should be permitted to set up AM and FM coast to coast networks and, if so, with what completion dates?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the government has no decision to make in the matter. Furthermore, the CBC advises me that a decision has yet to be reached by the corporation itself. We are dealing here with a study now under way with regard to which a decision will be made only later on.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. As the Royal Commission on the Status of Women has made a report with 167 detailed recommendations, some of them with sweeping and important social implications for all the people of Canada, will the Acting Prime Minister tell the House what plans have been made toward the implementation of such of these recommendations as fall within federal jurisdiction?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the report of the Royal Commission of the Status of Women is under study in the cabinet. No decisions have yet been made.

Mr. Brewin: As soon as the government has decided what it proposes to do, will a statement be made to the House, and is there any minister who is particularly in charge of looking into these recommendations?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, when the government has had an opportunity to consider these recommendations it will, of course, bring its decisions before Parliament, and must do so if they are to be incorporated in legislation. The answer to the second part of the question is that this is a matter of cabinet organization, but in fact the whole cabinet is studying the matter at the moment and specific responsibility has not yet been assigned. I may say I do not know whether anyone in the cabinet wants to be responsible for women.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I am sure women do not want to be responsible for the cabinet.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

TREE FRUIT INDUSTRY—MEASURES TO ARREST
VIRUS INFECTION

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and since he is not in the House perhaps I can direct it to the attention of his Parliamentary Secretary. As a result of the very serious representations that have been made to the government, will the minister inform the House if a decision has been made to make a specialist in plant pathology, and the necessary funds, available to the Harrow Research Station in an attempt to arrest the virus infection which is proving so destructive and costly to the Canadian tree fruit industry?

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice and if possible will provide the hon. member with an answer tomorrow.