

Oral Questions

about my having some contact with provincial premiers. That was my answer—that at a meeting I had last Monday, which included some provincial premiers, I suggested such a course to them. I suggested it publicly and expressed the hope they would do that. I cannot do more than that to make sure they put a specific item on their agenda. Let us put it that I have suggested this informally and in other ways.

Mr. Broadbent: To Premier Hatfield?

Mr. Trudeau: Not to Mr. Hatfield directly, Mr. Speaker. But the hon. member should gather from my answer that I have expressed the hope that the premiers would do that, and I have talked to at least two premiers to that effect.

Mr. Broadbent: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. To ensure that the proposal is given the seriousness it merits, does the Prime Minister not agree that at this point in our history it would be desirable for him, as head of the national government, to get in touch with Premier Hatfield, who will be chairman of the conference, and ask him to consider consulting with the other premiers on the desirability of their discussing that important matter at the conference next month? I say this as during the past 48 hours provincial premiers of different provinces representing different political parties in Canada have shown an openness and serious approach to this issue.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I feel the leader of the NDP means to be constructive in his suggestions and he, in effect, is seeking the same result as I indicated I was seeking. It is really a matter of knowing whether the proper way to achieve those results is for the federal Prime Minister to request that the provincial premiers put something on the agenda. It is my suggestion that it is not the proper way to go about these things. The important thing is that that type of discussion take place, and I have taken certain measures to ensure that it does take place if the provinces so desire. But the hon. member knows that the provinces are rather jealous of their jurisdiction in the area of education and I think it would not be productive for me to request, demand or suggest that the chairman of the conference do certain things. The important thing is that premiers who are participating in that conference do make such suggestions, and I invite the leader of the NDP to make that suggestion at least to Premier Schreyer and Premier Blakeney.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER MAINTAINS SOME REPORTERS SEPARATISTS AND SLANT NEWS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister.

Considering the serious charges laid by the Prime Minister and some of his ministers against CBC reporters in connection with their separatist leanings, and considering the denials

[Mr. Trudeau.]

contained in the CRTC report tabled recently, could the Prime Minister tell the House whether he himself and the members of his cabinet concerned continue to maintain that some CBC reporters are separatists and give biased information to favour their constitutional option?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon. member for Champlain is asking this question for the purpose of getting some political credit, and I do not accuse him of that, but I can only remind him that on several occasions his lamented leader, Mr. Réal Caouette, did denounce in this House the separatist and other leanings of the CBC. I think the hon. member's memory is too short and that he should have more respect for the memory of his leader.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

I did not ask what the opinion of my former leader was, but that of the Prime Minister, so he should consider answering our questions. My supplementary question is this: does the Prime Minister admit that approaches to Canadian unity different from his own may exist?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member really wants to know what I think, he need only read the answers I gave to the questions on the Boyle report which were directed to me every day of last week. I dealt also with this subject during my press conference. If the hon. member wants to be up to date, perhaps he should question me again tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker, I must insist in my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Since Canadians in general and Quebecers in particular are seeking a new type of constitutional agreement, does the Prime Minister feel that the CBC should normally reflect this search for a new identity?

Mr. Trudeau: Of course, Mr. Speaker, so what?

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—LEVEL IN OCTOBER, 1978—POSSIBILITY OF CUT IN PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Writing in the Canadian Tax Journal, Professors Jump and Wilson of the Institute for Policy Analysis of the University of Toronto have indicated that they feel the last federal budget will have no effect on current levels of inflation which they anticipate will run at approximately 8 per cent in 1978, and as the inflation target for the third year of the control program set by the government is 4 per cent, would the minister indicate if he is still confident that the Canadian economy will achieve a 4 per cent