

Inquiries of the Ministry

photographer nor anybody connected with him was admitted to any meeting of the cabinet or to any committee of the cabinet, nor to take any pictures of the cabinet in session or committee of the cabinet in session.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question addressed to the Secretary of State. I am wondering whether he is aware that if he visits a certain location in downtown Ottawa tonight, knocks three times and gives the password "Mike sent me" he can enjoy the otherwise restricted film "Mr. Pearson" which has been tastefully cleaned up so as not to offend the sensibilities of the Secretary of State for External Affairs; and would he pass on this good news to the C.B.C.?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I realize the general interest in this subject, but I am not at all sure that the original question was not out of order on two grounds; first, because it asked whether a statement made in a newspaper was correct, and it seems to me that the caption underneath a picture could be the equivalent of a statement; and second—well, I think the first ground is sufficient.

Mr. Fairweather: As always, I gladly accept your ruling, sir.

Mr. Hamilton: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, do I understand you have just ruled that my original question was of doubtful validity, according to our rules?

Mr. Speaker: I did not rule, but I made a very strong suggestion; at least that was intended. The question has already been asked and there have been two or three supplementaries, but if we were to start over again I am afraid I would have to rule that in my opinion it was a statement made in a newspaper.

Mr. Hamilton: Then I have to give notice to you, sir, that there are serious implications in this matter which I will have to deal with at a time when I review all the facts before me. I am serving notice of that.

AGRICULTURE**QUEBEC—METHOD OF CONSULTATION RESPECTING ARDA PROJECTS**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister of "rural development", forestry and "ARDA"?

[Mr. Pearson.]

Is it true that the minister telephoned Quebec's agriculture minister to tell him that he did not want to deal with him any longer about the ARDA regulations and that from now on he intended to deal directly with the premier of Quebec?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I talked to him three times yesterday and I never dealt with the matter in that way.

[*Text*]

SASKATCHEWAN—CUT IN BUDGET FOR ARDA RESEARCH PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of forestry and rural rehabilitation. In view of the importance of the ten major research projects under ARDA being carried out by the centre for community studies in Saskatoon, what has been done to overcome the difficulties resulting from the decision of the Saskatchewan government to cut the budget of that organization by two thirds?

Mr. Speaker: This is a question requiring a detailed answer. Would the hon. member put it on the order paper.

ARDA—DELAY IN APPROVAL OF PROJECTS IN QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry in connection with ARDA. Can the minister tell the house whether it is true that his department has not yet approved the 29 specific projects, amounting to \$7,500,000, submitted by the department of agriculture of Quebec?

If so, can he tell us why.

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I gave a detailed answer to that question yesterday at the request of the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard).

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Forestry. Could he tell the house whether it is true that he is taking advantage of ARDA to interfere in provincial affairs?

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, the debate on that point results from a misunderstanding. During three telephone conversations I had yesterday