

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

activities off Greenland, especially in view of the strong stand taken by the Prime Minister of Great Britain on this subject?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I shall take notice of this question. The Minister of Fisheries and I consult regularly about these matters. I shall consult with him about it and see what would be the most effective action we could take.

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. This problem has been around for some time and in view of the fact that the government of Canada has not been able to obtain agreement on this matter in the International Commission on the North Atlantic Fisheries, has the minister consulted or called in the ambassador for Denmark to discuss it?

**Mr. Sharp:** Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

**INFORMATION CANADA****INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Information Canada. As a preface to the question may I suggest that perhaps the Minister without Portfolio from day to day, when the Prime Minister is not in the House, could tell us where the Prime Minister is and what he is doing on a daily basis when he does not appear here.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nowlan:** My basic question, Mr. Speaker, is whether the minister has appointed five unit directors or subdirectors of Information Canada and, if so, what their function is and were they appointed by Public Service competition?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is no, but I would be glad to exchange information such as I have with the hon. member if he will keep me informed of the movements of his leader, who does not appear here as often as the Prime Minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I had some doubts about the preamble to the hon. member's question and I have some doubts about the preamble to the minister's answer. Per-

haps he would like to limit his contribution to the second part of the hon. member's question.

**Mr. Stanbury:** Mr. Speaker, one good preamble deserves another, but I did say, although the hon. member may not have heard, that the answer to the second question is no.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is not a preamble. I do not quarrel too much with preambles; it is the content I quarrel with. The supplementary question—if we are going to talk about leadership we can talk about some basic things right now and why the Prime Minister is not in the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are four minutes left before the end of the question period and I ask for the co-operation of the hon. member.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I certainly will co-operate, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister ensure that in future all executive appointments to Information Canada will be made on the basis of Public Service competition?

**Mr. Stanbury:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. That has always been clear and it remains so.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to the original question. Was the usual procedure followed in giving security clearance to the head of Information Canada?

**Mr. Stanbury:** The Prime Minister has answered that question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. MacInnis:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize that a minister is not bound to answer a question, but if he does so he is certainly required to give a truthful answer. The fact is that the Prime Minister has not satisfactorily answered the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena.

**CANADA ELECTIONS ACT****PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROVINCIAL ELECTION—RESIGNATION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL RETURNING OFFICERS**

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio):** While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, may I answer a question raised by the hon. member for Hillsborough on April 20 about resignations of two returning officers