

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, might I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration? In response to an earlier inquiry concerning the confusion with regard to draft dodgers and military deserters there was some question about the tabling of a document. I wonder whether the minister's colleagues have come to a decision in respect of producing this very important document.

Mr. MacEachen: The normal case is that these documents are privileged. They are interdepartmental and are not normally made public.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Has the minister received representations from many major bodies in this country, including churches, with regard to having this document made available for public scrutiny and information?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, there may have been one or two representations on this subject.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

BRINGING OF JERRY RUBIN TO CANADA

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that one Rubin was denied admission to Canada because he is a fomenter of revolution, has the minister ascertained why the C.B.C. had the effrontery to put this man on the national—

Mr. Jamieson: Network.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes, network—you are an expert in the field—and by telephone have him thereby subvert what had been determined by the department? What answer has been received from the C.B.C. and in particular I should like to know why the C.B.C. should be permitted to defy a government order and pay a wrongdoer to place his views before the Canadian people?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, having respect for house rules, I will not reply to the right hon. member's arguments.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Respect for house rules! You are never here.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: However, I will attempt to answer the question.

According to the C.B.C., the four minute interview with the individual concerned was an element of a program where other opinions balanced those which were expressed during those four minutes.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is no explanation. That is just an alibi. I now ask this question. Is this kind of thing going to stop? There can be no justification for the C.B.C. breaking the law in this manner.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, not being a jurist, I cannot state as lightly as the hon. member that the C.B.C. was guilty of breaking the law.

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can he tell us when he is likely to make an announcement regarding the personnel and establishment of the prices commission, which he indicated would be made during the month of March? I ask this question at this time because I would not like my hon. friend to the accused either of deliberately flaunting parliament or of inefficiency.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I hope to make the appointments very shortly, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the great interest of the Leader of the Opposition in this commission and the appointments to it since his initial reaction to it seemed to be rather cool. I am delighted to see he is warming to it.

Mr. Stanfield: Has the minister given any consideration to the suggestion that he should take advantage of the opportunity to establish not only this commission, about which I have expressed views, but also a forecasting service of the type recommended for several years now by the Economic Council of Canada and urged upon the minister by the Private Planning Association of Canada?