

Inquiries of the Ministry

States is ignoring the rule of law and resorting to unilateral action regardless of decisions of the United Nations in the most recent Cambodian issue and, if so, what action has been taken in regard to Mr. Ronning's advice?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Like the hon. gentleman, I read Mr. Ronning's statement in the press. He has not conveyed it to me personally but he certainly intended to convey it to all Canadians. I respect his views, as I respect the views of all members of this House. I suggest it ought to be our purpose in all our actions, whether as private individuals or as the government, to work for a peaceful settlement of this dispute. The way things are going, now the risks of an even greater conflagration are very great.

CAMBODIA—EXPRESSION TO UNITED STATES OF DISAPPROVAL OF AMERICAN INVASION

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs inform the House whether or not the disapproval of the Canadian government of the recent action of the Americans in Cambodia has been directly conveyed to the United States authorities and, if so, what response was there?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think that all hon. members noticed that the debate that took place in the House on Friday was being followed very closely by the representatives of the United States government.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER TO COMMENT ON QUEBEC ELECTION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday afternoon, the Prime Minister was invited by "Télé-Métropole" to speak on an hour-long television program about the recent provincial elections in Quebec. I do not always agree with the Prime Minister, but that is not the point.

Here is my question: Was the famous corporation called CBC which operates an English and a French network kind enough to invite the Prime Minister of Canada, as it is

[Mr. Nystrom.]

usually so eager to welcome such people as Messrs. Lévesque, Grégoire, Parizeau and Michel Chartrand?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is true that I was invited to appear on Channel 10 to talk on behalf of the Canadian government about Canada and Canadian unity. But following the attacks of the last few months against federalism the matter had to be cleared up.

The English network of the CBC also extended an invitation but none came from the French network. However, I was told this morning that two days ago they had asked me to make comments on birth control in underdeveloped countries. They are not much interested in the Canadian situation.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question. Has the Prime Minister finally finished dusting his Chinese vases?

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

SUGGESTED LOWERING OF INTEREST RATE TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a question for the Prime Minister. As widespread lay-offs in the electrical, textile, footwear, rubber, radio, television and other industries have given a very clear indication that unemployment today is considerably higher than the 6.7 per cent reached in March, will the government now give consideration to having the Bank of Canada gradually lower the interest rate so that employment in this country may be stimulated by economic activity to provide the jobs needed not only for the 554,000 people unemployed in March but also for the 650,000 students who, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration told us today, will be looking for jobs this summer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Could I ask the Prime Minister to answer my question? He does not seem to be interested so I will ask him a simple supplementary question. How much higher does the government intend to push unemployment in its fight to cure inflation, to the last unemployed Canadian?

Mr. Speaker: Order.