Mr. Bell: A supplementary question. In view of the regional nature of the petroleum industry in the maritimes, and their pricing system, will the minister give this matter more than just a routine referral and promise some sort of report back to this house as to the disposition of the matter?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, I will consider this suggestion.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO FILM RESPECTING PRIME MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the President of the Privy Council. Was the President of the Privy Council in the cabinet room when the film "Mr. Pearson" was being filmed, and were political matters being discussed by those present during the filming?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question twice. There was no filming of a cabinet meeting at any time by anyone. Surely that answer can stand.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That was not the question.

Mr. Hamilton: Mr. Speaker, I think for the third time the Prime Minister has attempted to mislead this house. The first time was in the answer he gave to the hon. member for Royal on Tuesday, and then in the answer he gave me yesterday. Now, when I ask the specific question of the President of the Privy Council as to whether he was present in the cabinet room when the film called "Mr. Pearson" was being filmed, and whether political matters were being discussed, there is confusion on the front benches, and the Prime Minister interferes and says he has already answered that question. I should like my question answered.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has accused me of misleading the house in answers I have given. The answers I have given on this matter are strictly and absolutely true, and I would ask the hon. member to accept the fact that there was no filming of any meeting of the cabinet or any committee of the cabinet; and I wish he would discontinue this kind of inquiry when the matter has already been dealt with.

Mr. Hamilton: Mr. Speaker, for the fourth time the Prime Minister has given an answer which he claims is the truth. On the basis of the evidence we have I say that it is not the complete truth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I ask the hon. member to withdraw the suggestion that the answer I gave him was not the complete truth. It was the total and complete truth.

Mr. Hamilton: Mr. Speaker, my question was simple. Was the President of the Privy Council present—

Mr. Pearson: I would ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw the statement that I misled the house and that I did not give the house the total and complete truth.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister has made a request, and I think the hon. member should withdraw the statement unless he has substantial facts to the contrary. There are other ways and means of making a charge instead of making a statement.

Mr. Pearson: You have said, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member should withdraw the statement unless he has substantial facts to disprove my statement. I ask that this be an unqualified withdrawal.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): The Prime Minister ran into a question that was not directed to him. The question was directed to the President of the Privy Council, who allegedly made the statement in question outside of this house. This is the basis for the question asked by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle.

I point out this, Mr. Speaker, when you are asking for a withdrawal. I am interested in the Prime Minister's attitude today because when a definite statement in this regard was made against me there was no withdrawal, and that was only a few days ago. The statement was made in your presence and it was an improper statement, far and beyond this statement. Nobody was asked for a withdrawal, and I am sure the Prime Minister should not be so touchy.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of being touchy. It is a matter of dealing with a statement made by an hon. member opposite that I did not tell the truth in answer to a question. I claim that I have told the truth,