Inquiries of the Ministry

[*Translation*]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO CONSIDERATION BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Could the minister tell us when she intends to call the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation before the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Soon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, since the Secretary of State of this Liberal government has been telling us for two years it will be "soon", could we know whether this means at this session?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sherbrooke.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

PROCEDURE IN CONSIDERING LEGISLATION ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the government house leader—

Mr. David Lewis (York South): He is not here, he is gone.

Mr. Allard: —or to the Prime Minister.

It has to do with notice of motion No. 66, which will be called this afternoon.

Would the Prime Minister or the government leader consider the possibility of calling separate votes on Parts I and II of the resolution, as well as on Part III? As a matter of fact, parts "a" and "b" of the resolution—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I point out to the hon. member that this is a point of procedure that he might raise during the debate, but which cannot form the subject of a question at this time.

[*English*]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the resolution coming before the house this afternoon, which is of transcendant importance and of great consequence. I wonder whether the Prime Minister intends to place before the house and country his considered views on this question, based upon his experience as Prime Minister for some three years, having had a large number of cases come before him for consideration? Whatever the outcome of the free vote on this resolution, will the Prime Minister give consideration to submitting this question of the abolition of capital punishment to a committee of the house in order that the fullest possible evidence might be taken in connection therewith and so that this house can be made fully aware of the various commissions which have dealt with this question in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, before a final decision is made?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, let me say that I am a member of this house at this stage and would prefer to listen to the views of other members before deciding what my own responsibility is in regard to participation in the debate. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I think we should discuss the resolution on the order paper and the right hon. gentleman's suggestion can be considered while we are discussing it.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Will the fate by commutation or otherwise of those now under sentence of death be determined by the cabinet in the light of existing law and practice or await the outcome of the debate which will commence shortly?

Mr. Pearson: Surely this is an improper question, Mr. Speaker, as it deals with the royal prerogative.

HARBOURS

VANCOUVER—INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSED WHARF DEVELOPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of statements appearing in the press following his visit to Vancouver, can he inform the house what plans are being considered for a National Harbours Board wharf development in Vancouver between Centennial pier and C.P.R. piers B and C?