

Inquiries of the Ministry

this film, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman could provide the house with a more thorough explanation of the relationship between the Prime Minister and any of his staff and C.B.C. officials with regard to this whole debatable question.

Mr. Speaker: It does seem to me that this question goes away beyond the limits of the rules. The hon. member made a series of statements at the beginning and gave interpretations. Perhaps he would rephrase his question, if he is looking for information, and put it on the order paper.

Mr. Fisher: I will be glad to rephrase the question. In view of the controversial circumstances which now exist with regard to this film I wonder whether the minister could provide us with a more thorough and plausible explanation of the incidents involved.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): The C.B.C. some days ago—I think it was a couple of weeks ago—issued a statement, and I certainly have nothing to add to that statement.

Mr. Gene Rhéaume (Northwest Territories): Now that the National Press club has seen the film can the Secretary of State tell us whether the Canadian people are to be allowed to view this extravaganza for which they paid \$35,000 in taxes?

Mr. Lamontagne: This is a matter of programming—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lamontagne:—and as the minister formerly responsible for the C.B.C., the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings once said in this house, it would be a tragedy if there were interference with the programming of the C.B.C.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): In view of the minister's statement that programming lies entirely within the jurisdiction of the C.B.C., can the minister assure the house that there was no interference to prevent this film being shown?

Mr. Pearson: The C.B.C. said so.

Mr. Lamontagne: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Now that the Secretary of State is in such a friendly mood and is furnishing information so complete and frank, will he tell us what was the position of those five ministers who sat in and examined this

particular film before it was declared unfit for human consumption?

Mr. Lamontagne: All I can say about this film is that I have not seen it. The C.B.C. has been completely free in arriving at the decision it has reached.

Mr. Fisher: Perhaps I could put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him whether he presented any opinions which got to C.B.C. executives indicating that this film should not be shown.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): What I do in my private capacity is not, of course, the concern of the hon. gentleman, but I suggest that if he is interested in films he come with me tomorrow night and see the film entitled "I Would Like to be that Guy".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs why he is going to see it.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am always frank with this house. It is because I would like to be that guy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas: The Secretary of State has said that the decision not to show the film was made entirely by the C.B.C. I should like to ask the minister why it was shown to persons outside the corporation, and particularly why it was shown to advisers in the Prime Minister's office.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think this question is in order. The hon. member has made a series of statements and allegations. He may have the facts; certainly I do not. But it seems to me there is a better way of asking questions than by making a statement that we have to assume is true, and then expecting an answer. If the hon. member would rephrase that question to make it legal—

Mr. Douglas: I will gladly rephrase the question, making it a simple, direct question. Was this film shown to persons outside the C.B.C., and, in particular, was it shown to the Prime Minister's advisers? If so, why?

Mr. Lamontagne: I understand it was shown, as a result of a decision by the C.B.C.

Some hon. Members: Oh.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question