

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Did he send a message of congratulations to the president of the French republic about his decision not to devalue the franc, as did the President of the United States?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did not send any telegram, but Canada did send France \$100 million.

[English]

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister explain the mission undertaken by the government leader in the other place?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Will I explain what, sir?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member realizes that the Speaker has to make a ruling on questions, and I suppose they should be just a little clearer than this so he can determine whether it is a matter of urgency, or a matter of national importance, and whether the question can be asked at this time.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): With all due respect I will forgo the opportunity, since it is not clear to the Prime Minister who is running the government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ambrose H. Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of a report in today's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that the government is giving some \$75,000 to a manufacturer to investigate three proposals for the modernization of bathrooms—

An hon. Member: For the Privy Council.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly ask his question?

Mr. Peddle: —and in view of the avowed intention of the Prime Minister and his government to stay out of the nation's bedrooms,

would it not be wise for the Prime Minister and his government also to stay out of the nation's bathrooms?

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): It really does not matter who answers this question, but I would appreciate it very much if the Prime Minister could be recognized. He is beginning to look like a yo-yo.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Because of the prevailing good mood of the house perhaps I might be allowed to direct a question to the Postmaster General. In his recent comments on defence matters was the hon. gentleman speaking as a leadership candidate or was he merely flying a satellite?

Mr. Speaker: Order. In spite of the good mood of the house, the hon. member cannot ask that question.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): My question is prompted by the declaration of the Prime Minister concerning the independence of cabinet ministers when commenting on various items. I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General and ask him whether he has read and would care to comment upon the derogatory and slighting remarks made about him by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

THE MINISTRY**FREEDOM TO EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINIONS ON POLICIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Prime Minister. Would he confirm to this house that he has authorized, as a matter of government practice in respect of policies in the process of formulation, ministers of the crown to express their personal opinions, as for example ministers to whom the reports of the companies referred to by the Postmaster General were given? Would these ministers be free to express their