

Inquiries of the Ministry

the R.C.M.P. for the purpose of soliciting information gained by N.F.C.U.S. observers at international student meetings, particularly those in eastern Europe. Has his attention also been called to the fact that all five of the men who have held the position of president of the Canadian Union of Students have said they were similarly solicited, and that one of them said he was offered a bottle of rye whiskey?

I should like to ask the minister whether he will undertake to have an investigation made of these allegations to see whether they are true. If he finds they are correct, will he undertake to report back to the house to the effect that these practices are being discontinued?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, in reply perhaps I may be permitted to say that I am advised the R.C.M.P. does not supply funds to students or student organizations for the purpose of inducing them to act on behalf of the R.C.M.P.

I wish to emphasize that the activities of the R.C.M.P. are limited to counterespionage. Obviously it is not possible for the R.C.M.P., which is charged with the responsibility for national security, to carry out its responsibilities unless members of that force are able to ask questions of people who have relevant information. The R.C.M.P. have openly interviewed people from all walks of life, including students.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. W. H. A. Thomas (Middlesex West): Would the Solicitor General also be prepared to advise the Canadian Union of Students that since the R.C.M.P. is one of the arms of government and is vitally responsible in the maintenance of law and order in this country, co-operation with the R.C.M.P. is co-operation with the government and the citizens of Canada?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INVITATIONS TO PERSONS INVOLVED IN SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister.

[Mr. Douglas.]

Is it the intention of the government or the Prime Minister to advise the C.B.C. or to recommend to the C.B.C. that it should abstain from extending further invitations to persons directly or indirectly affiliated with any separatist activity in the country?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will bring my hon. friend's observations to the attention of the C.B.C.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Could the Prime Minister tell us if he intends to use the C.B.C. to prevent ideas from circulating in Canada, or would he not rather leave the C.B.C. free to allow those who have ideas to express them?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[English]

TRADE

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN MEETING RESPECTING LATIN AMERICAN COMMON MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Because of the number of existing trade agreements that will be involved, could the minister tell the house whether Canada has been invited to send an observer to the mid-April meeting in Uruguay designed to set up a common market of 19 Latin American nations.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I will have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

AIR TRANSPORT

CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES—REQUEST FOR LANDING RIGHTS AT CALGARY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister received a wire from the mayor of the city of Calgary requesting an early discussion on Canadian Pacific Airlines' request for landing rights at Calgary and informing the minister of the grave concern of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce at the delay in settling this matter? Also, can the minister state when he will