

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas: On a question of privilege, I had no intention of reflecting on Your Honour. I was simply pointing out that the member for Renfrew South was allowed to present arguments showing that the party with which I am associated was inconsistent with regard to the matter of the hon. member for Labelle. We said this should be sent to the committee on privileges and elections.

May I submit to Your Honour that the hon. member for Ontario moved to have a discussion in the house on the whole question of certain matters affecting the government. I was the person who took the position, and it is the position of our party, that this was not the kind of matter which could be discussed by turning parliament into a three ring circus, and that it should be discussed by a judicial investigation such as is now in progress.

We take exactly the same position with reference to these allegations made in the Vancouver *Province* of February 22. We are prepared to have an investigation either by the chief electoral officer, as was agreed to by this house, or by a judicial body. The fact that members opposite voted for, or did not oppose, the chief electoral officer being asked to undertake this responsibility means that this is the wish of this house and should be carried out.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Would the hon. member permit a question. Did the hon. member not know at the time he made this proposal that the chief electoral officer had no power to conduct such an inquiry after one year?

Mr. Douglas: I know that this house has the power to give him whatever authority he requires.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Peters: Why don't you offer a judicial inquiry?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): A supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker.

Would the Prime Minister have any objection to that inquiry being held publicly and, at the same time, to see those people who might have evidence to submit concerning frauds committed by the Liberal party during the last election given the opportunity to do so?

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[*Text*]

Mr. Pearson: I am all for public inquiries, in this particular matter and in any matters like it.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): This is a question for the Prime Minister. I should like to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister a matter of national interest, namely that Mr. Eli Lindsay of Arborfield, Saskatchewan will be celebrating his 106th birthday on Sunday next, February 28. Mr. Lindsay is in good health and spirits; he has an alert mind, and if the right hon. gentleman has any intention of filling any vacancies in the Senate, I feel sure Mr. Lindsay would qualify for such a position.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am delighted to have that information, and I am sure I hope the hon. member and I may live as long and as happily.

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. I should like to inquire how many Canadians can be kicked off teams in the Canadian football league before the board of broadcast governors changes its mind about this 100 per cent Canadian content.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): I have a question for the Minister of Labour. As this is the last week end in February, and as severe winter weather conditions have continued since the session resumed in the middle of February, has the government now arrived at a decision to extend the term for the winter works house building incentive program, in the light of the further consideration which the minister said on February 16 should be given to this matter having regard to what the weather conditions might be?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): We have not reached any decision to extend the period. This will be reviewed later on