

Inquiries of the Ministry

providing cable television to the area in question, and report back to the House?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

MEETING OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND LABOUR ON PRICE RESTRAINTS FOR 1971

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Is the government planning to call in the very near future a meeting of government, business and labour to discuss the matter of price restraints for 1971 in view of the fact that the heads of the principal business organizations in Canada have stated recently that their members will not continue to practise price restraint in 1971 unless organized labour agrees to restrain its demands for increased wages and in view of the fact that in the past two or three days the leaders of organized labour have also stated they have no intention of doing so?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, although I do not accept that the submissions were made in the terms of the hon. member's question, I have already been advised by the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission that he is still discussing these matters with the people mentioned by the hon. member.

Mr. Hees: Does the minister not consider that time has run out and that these decisions must be made before the end of the year or price restraint will cease to exist?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now submitting an argument in support of his question and I have to presume that his submission will be taken into consideration by the minister in reaching his decision.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

MONTREAL—ALLEGED EDITING OF NEWS BY MAYOR

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): I want to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he could check the charges brought against the CBC by one of its employees to the effect that the Corporation allows the mayor of Montreal to edit the news, to preview broadcasts before they are normally put on the air and to select the accompanying news clips. Is the minister ready to ask the CBC to find out whether these charges are justified?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Muir.]

[English]

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS RESPECTING NEWS PROGRAMS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a question for the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker, also involving the CBC. Have any special instructions been given to the CBC or Radio-Canada affecting the corporation, either in English or in French, as to the dissemination of news since the proclamation of the War Measures Act? If so, would the minister make a statement in the House, if any such special instructions have been given, as to how the news is to be reported?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I do not understand whether the hon. member is referring to instructions given by the government to the CBC, in which case the reply would be no. If he is referring to directions given by the CBC to its reporters and commentators, I would have to inquire from the CBC in order to give the hon. member a detailed reply.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Perhaps I lost the translation as I stood up, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister mean that he will inquire whether such instructions have been given and that he is prepared to make a statement to the House?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to answer the first part of the question pertaining to instructions given by the government to the CBC, the answer is no. With regard to whether the CBC itself has given instructions to the information, news and public affairs services, it is public knowledge that the president of the CBC at a certain point made public the recommendations he had made to those services to exercise restraint. I do not know of any instructions other than those but I shall inquire and answer the hon. member's question later.

ARREST OF CERTAIN NEWS BROADCASTERS UNDER WAR MEASURES ACT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question is directed to the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask him whether a number of news broadcasters connected with Radio-Canada were picked up by the authorities under the provisions of the regulations under the War Measures Act and, if so, have they since been released?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I know that certain persons connected with the CBC—I could not clearly state whether they were employees or merely free-lance contributors—have been arrested and later released. I could not give the hon. member the precise information he requested, but such information must certainly be available either from the CBC or the Quebec Minister of Justice, and I can make inquiries if the right hon. representative is interested.