

Inquiries of the Ministry

remarks apply to the answer given by the Prime Minister. I raise the question now merely in an attempt to try to keep the proceedings of the house on an orderly basis. This is the first day on which these matters can be raised, and the question period can sometimes get a bit out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Does any hon. member from the other side of the house wish to comment on the point of order? The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith) does have a point when he draws attention to the fact that rather lengthy replies, in the nature of statements, have been initiated by way of questions. Having expressed that view, I think we might leave the matter there for the time being and follow the course of events.

TELEVISION

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORTED DELAY IN PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR ROSSLAND-TRAIL AREA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): As he is the target for all questions, queries and quibbles with respect to the C.B.C., I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of growing dissatisfaction with the unexpected delay in the provision of C.B.C. television facilities for the Rossland-Trail area, occasioned by the inability of the C.B.C. to purchase the required terra firma from the provincial government, is the minister now in a position to publicly unveil this unique constitutional and administrative mystery for the information of the house and the many others concerned?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): After the circumlocutions as well as the poor Latin used by the hon. member, I simply want to say I am instructed and advised that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation desires to purchase a piece of property adjacent to the constituency of the hon. member and in which he has a natural interest. However, this property is owned by the crown in the right of the province of British Columbia. Discussions are taking place between officials of the government of British Columbia and officials of the C.B.C., and I have great hope and expectation that the problem can be solved within a very short time.

IMMIGRATION

WELDON CHAN—REQUESTED DELAY IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. D. Crestohl (Cartier): I should like to address a question to the minister of immigration. Will the minister inform the house [Mr. McIlraith.]

whether or not Mr. Weldon Chan, who is now under order of deportation, will be permitted to remain in Canada to complete the legal proceedings already instituted if he surrenders to authorities of the immigration department?

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I am unable to answer any questions in regard to Mr. Chan because he has taken legal proceedings and the matter is now before the courts.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): May I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister give the house the same assurance which his predecessor gave in response to a question of his in the Hanna case, that this man will not be spirited out of the country while any legal proceedings are under way?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The legal proceedings in the previous case to which the hon. gentleman refers were legal proceedings under the Immigration Act.

Mr. Pickersgill: Oh, no, they were not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The hon. gentleman should know because he was the minister at the time, but my recollection is that the proceedings were those arising under the act. I can assure him of this; that when any proceedings under the act are taken, so long as this government is in power there will be no spiriting out of the country.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the Prime Minister whether, if legal proceedings similar to those which were taken in that case, which had nothing to do with the Immigration Act but were habeas corpus proceedings, are instituted, the Prime Minister will give a similar assurance to this house that the man will not be spirited out of the country?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The habeas corpus proceedings were in respect of the Immigration Act and the procedure taken thereunder. If any proceedings are launched by way of habeas corpus nobody will leave Canada, regardless of what the circumstances are.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the Prime Minister a further supplementary question. Is the Prime Minister aware of the fact that the minister has indicated precisely the contrary in a telegram to the lawyer in question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Under habeas corpus?

INQUIRY AS TO REVISION OF ACT DURING PRESENT SESSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. B. Crestohl (Cartier): I have another question to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Can the minister tell the