

Inquiries of the Ministry

question may be one which it is impossible to answer. I shall try to get the answers as quickly as I can.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member might tell me for instance, when he intends to give an answer to question No. 910, which I put on the order paper on March 1 last.

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform the house that the hon. member's question will be answered next week.

MOTION FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Would Your Honour call notice of motion No. 185?

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all other notices of motions stand.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Motion 185?

An hon. Member: Stands.

Mr. Speaker: Motion 185 stands.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. On October 26 there was a motion for the production of papers related to the correspondence between the federal government and the government of British Columbia regarding the relocation of Michel-Natal in the community of Sparwood, B.C. When will these documents be tabled in view of the fact that a month has gone by since the motion was made?

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, we will see to it immediately.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**REQUEST FOR FREE VOTE ON TELEVISION OF DEBATES**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, now that the question of television in the British parliament has been dealt with by a free vote of the British House of Commons on a motion moved for the purpose, would the Prime Minister consider having a motion placed before the house, free of the whips, to provide for television in this house? I suggest that it might be done on

[*Miss LaMarsh.*]

an experimental basis to start with so as to allow us in the house to decide whether it is appropriate at present and in the public interest that an opportunity be given to the Canadian people to see parliament in action. Such a move also would enable Canadians to appreciate better than they otherwise can the operation of this institution.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a very important question of course and I will be very glad to give it my consideration along the lines indicated by my right hon. friend.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**RECOGNITION OF MAINLAND CHINA WITHIN LIMITED PERIOD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I welcome back the Secretary of State for External Affairs from his visit to the United Nations.

I would like to ask him a question regarding the statements which were made last night on C.B.C.-TV by Mr. Tom Gould who attributed to a very highly placed government official a statement to the effect that the government of Canada will recognize the People's Republic of China within two months. Since I assume the C.B.C. would not have carried the story without having received this information from some government official could I ask the minister why this information was not transmitted to the house rather than being leaked to the people of Canada through a statement to a correspondent of the C.B.C.?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Of course I cannot be responsible for what a distinguished commentator like Mr. Gould would say on his own account. I heard what he said and my impression is that he indicated he understood the government would be giving consideration to this matter within a specified time. I cannot add anything to that, other than to call my hon. friend's attention to what the Prime Minister said in general on the subject last Thursday.

UNITED NATIONS**POSITION TAKEN BY CANADA ON ADMISSION OF MAINLAND CHINA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the speech that the minister made at the United Nations and his comments regarding