

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have to rule that the supplementary is not in order. [English]

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

MONTREAL—LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my question to the Prime Minister about the firing of 50 employees of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation yesterday in Montreal.

Does the government policy aim at reducing the inflationary trend by causing unemployment in federal agencies?

I would also like to ask the Prime Minister whether that is a general policy concerning the C.B.C., which will apply to lower rank employees as well as to high officials of the Corporation.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a very complicated question and I shall try to answer the part that concerns the federal government.

The C.B.C. budget has already been established, along with that of other government agencies and departments. In the case of the C.B.C. even more so than for the departments, it is up to the management to determine how the global policy of keeping in check growing expenses is to be implemented.

Mr. Valade: I wish to ask a supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister ask the Secretary of State to make a statement in this house as soon as possible concerning the global policy of the Corporation?

Mr. Trudeau: I cannot see that I should have to ask him to make such a statement, Mr. Speaker. The budgetary estimates will be tabled in the house at the proper time as usual, and the members will be able to ascertain whether we allocate too little or too much money to a department or to the C.B.C.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us who will be responsible for the laying off of these 50 employees and upon which criteria it will be based?

Mr. Trudeau: We have there a Crown corporation, Mr. Speaker; it is really autonomous as regards its internal administration.

[Mr. Comeau.]

FISHERIES

OPERATIONS OF FOREIGN TRAWLERS

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Fisheries whether he is aware that a fleet of East German trawlers is fishing inside our 12-mile limit off the coast of Cape Breton and, if so, what is the department doing about this?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, yesterday a fleet of 15 large East German trawlers put into a bay on the east coast of Cape Breton island. They came in because of storm conditions. These trawlers were intercepted by our fisheries protection vessel, the *Chebucto*. They left early this morning and they are now outside our 12-mile zone. They had not been fishing in our exclusive fishing zone but they should not have been there in the first place.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister indicate whether in fact Russian ships and other foreign vessels are in fact fishing off our coast or whether they are involved in any activities which are of any importance to us?

Mr. Trudeau: They are fishing for something.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, most of the reports I personally get on these matters are classified secret.

PUBLIC SERVICE

METHOD OF REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board whether the government has had an opportunity to review its guidelines respecting the laying off of public servants under the current austerity drive, and in light of that review is the government now prepared to drop the guideline in respect of laying off persons who are between the ages of 60 and 65?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I hope to elaborate on this in about an hour's time.