

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am not quite sure how I should describe this question, but it is far too vague and wide.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

TORONTO—REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE  
CONVERSION OF STATION CJBC TO  
FRENCH LANGUAGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State. On February 25 the Secretary of State advised the house that he would consult with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as to whether they would hold a public hearing in Toronto before radio station CJBC was converted to an all French station. Is the minister now prepared to advise the house of their decision?

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to answer that question tomorrow.

REFERENCE TO MORNING NEWS  
BROADCAST THIS DAY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State, who answers in the house for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In view of the contents of the C.B.C. national news program broadcast at 8 a.m. this morning, eastern standard time, and heard over station CBO, Ottawa, would the Secretary of State inquire from the C.B.C. if that corporation has decided to declare political warfare on the government of the province of Ontario?

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State):** I will, Mr. Speaker.

REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO  
PROGRAM PUBLICITY

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Megantic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is intended for the Secretary of State. Could the minister report on his inquiries or on the representations that might have been made by organizations such as the Jeanne d'Arc or Lacordaire societies concerning the nature of beer ads shown during T.V. programs on the C.B.C.

**Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State):** Not today, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Pigeon.]

[Later:]

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Obviously there is a spirit of co-operation in all parts of the house with a view to shortening the question period. But today we had from the same minister two examples showing why it will be difficult to attain our objective if ministers will not answer the questions put to them.

On two occasions today, and apparently with some satisfaction, the Secretary of State (Mr. Lamontagne) gave an answer which did not satisfy the members of the house when he said he would reply later or make inquiries, because most of the time he does not give an answer in the house, even two or three weeks after the question has been asked.

That happened in my case on several occasions for questions I had asked at least three weeks or even a month before. I did not get the answer which was promised me.

I think that the ministers should be the first to co-operate if we want to shorten the question period, but this applies more particularly to the Secretary of State who often acts with arrogance, as shown by his smile in the house.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Speaker, I must register my disagreement with the statements of the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Gregoire). The hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) asked me whether I would agree to inquire from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and I replied I would. In the circumstances, I could give no other answer.

When the hon. member for Lapointe asked me to make a statement, I answered I was not ready to do so. On the other hand, had the hon. member given me notice of his question, I probably would have been able to answer satisfactorily.

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order concerned similar questions asked in the past, which have not yet been answered. If the minister so desires, I may refer to numerous instances in that respect.

**Mr. Langlois:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question?

Would the minister consider my question of a few minutes ago as notice?

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

**CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**

INQUIRY AS TO CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.