

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Acting Prime Minister. Does the government intend to proceed with the increase in old age security pensions?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend knows, of course, if he wishes to recollect, that no government in our history has done more for the old age pensioners than Liberal governments, including the present government.

Mr. Winkler: In the light of that reply I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he is aware that he had better act soon before it is too late, or he will be classified as the government was in 1955.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am aware of the fact that the people of Canada know that practically all—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FINANCE**REPORTED INTENTION TO REDUCE
FEDERAL SPENDING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): My supplementary question is based on the telecast of last evening. I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he is now in a position to indicate the extent of the reduction in federal government spending for the remainder of the present fiscal year as a result of the economic indicators mentioned.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am waiting most anxiously for the debate on the transportation bill to terminate so I can make a statement.

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION****INQUIRY AS TO PURPOSE OF MEETING
OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I wanted to ask this question of the Secretary of State but in her absence may I direct it to her parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact that the board of directors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is now meeting, can we have information as to whether the board intends to implement the Keate report or the parliamentary committee report at its present meeting?

[Mr. Knowles.]

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): I shall take the question as notice.

[Later:]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I now ask the Secretary of State the question I asked earlier before she came into the chamber. In view of the fact that the board of directors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is now in session, could the hon. lady inform the house whether the board has any intention of implementing at this meeting either the recommendation of the Keates report or the recommendation of the report of the parliamentary committee; or will the present vice presidents remain in their positions instead of some meaningful changes being made?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet in a social way with the members of the board last night, and I was informed that this question was on the agenda of the directors' meeting. I should remind my hon. friend that a couple of months ago a C.B.C. release stated that it was intended to appoint two new vice presidents, one from French radio and one from English radio. I assume, indeed I heard, that the C.B.C. was interviewing various persons during the past month or so with respect to these positions, though I have no later information as to whether anyone has been accepted.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question. Perhaps it was merely a slip of the tongue, but the hon. lady referred to the appointment of one vice president from French radio and one from English radio. Is there any significance in those words?

Miss LaMarsh: I think I was using "radio" in the sense that one talks of communications, and it includes, of course, television.

**GERALD CAPLAN—INQUIRY AS TO CON-
TINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State, but in her absence I direct it to the parliamentary secretary. I see the Secretary of State has now joined us, so I shall direct the question to her in her capacity as spokesman in this house for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Is the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation planning to engage Mr. Gerald Caplan for any further interviews on the