

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. I had grave doubts that the last question was in order but in order to try to get rid of the matter I allowed it. If the supplementary is along the same line I am afraid it will be out of order.

Mr. Nielsen: If Your Honour is ruling it out of order on the ground of urgency, which I assume Your Honour is doing despite the great national interest in the question and the cost of \$35,000 to the Canadian taxpayers, I give notice that I wish to debate this question at ten o'clock this evening.

[Later:]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Can he inform the house when the policy of the C.B.C. was changed so as to allow the Prime Minister to editorially review a film before a decision is made on its presentation?

Mr. Speaker: There does not seem to me to be that tremendous urgency that requires an immediate answer. Would the hon. member put the question on the order paper.

Mr. Nielsen: I would like to give notice to debate it this evening.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in view of the earlier questions I am sure the Prime Minister would want to tell the house what business it was of his to have a preview of what was supposed to be the story of his conduct as prime minister. Did he or did anyone on his behalf advise the C.B.C. that this should not be produced because it had all the appearance of a horror mystery?

Mr. Pearson: Well, Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman knows this matter is coming up for debate at ten o'clock, but to anticipate that debate, because he has such a strong interest in the matter, I might point out to him that the C.B.C. have already stated that this is a matter for their own decision and that no pressure of any kind was brought to bear on them by any member of the government to deal with this in any other way than they saw fit.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not the question I asked. The question I asked was under what circumstances this preview took place. Was it at the request of the Prime Minister or a member of his staff; for it is a most unusual thing that Canadians have to have him or those associated with him censor what is being produced on the C.B.C.

Mr. Pearson: The circumstances were perfectly proper. The initiative was taken by the producer of the film, and no question of censorship arises.

Mr. Nielsen: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you would allow a supplementary question. Can [Mr. Nielsen.]

the Prime Minister answer whether the statement of Intervideo Productions Limited is accurate, that there were five separate showings to the Prime Minister and other members of his cabinet?

Mr. Pearson: My hon. friend cannot have it both ways. If he wants a debate at ten o'clock he will have to wait. He has asked for a debate at ten o'clock, so perhaps he can wait until then.

LEGAL ACTION RESPECTING PROGRAM "TWENTY YEARS LATER"

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State who answers to the house for the C.B.C. Does the minister intend to recommend that the government take legal action against the C.B.C. following the program "Twenty years Later" presented on Saturday, May 9, which was an insult to religion and which questioned the value of religious teaching in Quebec?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: This surely is a question for the order paper.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, after ten o'clock.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. My question is largely based on facts brought out at the recent annual meeting of the Montreal neurological institute. Is the government currently discussing policy relating to federal assistance for medical research in Canada, and can we expect an announcement in this regard in the relatively near future?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, may I thank all hon. members for their very friendly welcome on my return to the house, and I also wish to express my thanks to all those members who were kind enough to visit me and send me notes.

May I say to my hon. friend that this matter, like many others, is under constant review by my department as well as by the medical research council. It is also part of the terms of reference of the royal commission on health which has not yet reported. I should like to say to my hon. friend, however, that when