

Inquiries of the Ministry

the establishment of a C.B.C. television station at Saskatoon at the present time cannot be approved. Action on the recommendation of the Board of Broadcast Governors, in its report, will therefore be deferred.

I should add that the government does not reject the recommendation of the Board of Broadcast Governors and continues to favour the establishment by the C.B.C. of television facilities in Saskatoon. We hope that, in due course, circumstances will permit the government to authorize the expenditures involved for this purpose.

Mr. L. M. Brand (Saskatoon): In the light of that statement by the Prime Minister may I ask the right hon. gentleman this question. Since the C.B.C. has now been hog-tied by the government in this connection, would the Prime Minister consider allowing a private group to set up a television station in Saskatoon instead of the C.B.C.?

[Later:]

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. It relates to the announcement made today of the government's decision to defer the establishment of a C.B.C. station in Saskatoon. Would the Prime Minister tell us whether this decision reflected the advice he received through consultation with Premier Thatcher?

HOUSING**INQUIRY AS TO AGENDA FOR PROPOSED CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): I have a question for the Minister of Labour in his capacity as part time housing minister. In view of the mounting evidence of a continuing housing crisis, as shown by cases of family break-up due to inadequate accommodation, can the minister now tell us the agenda to be submitted to the important housing conference he intends to hold?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I think I stated earlier in the week that the agenda for the conference had not been settled. The Prime Minister has communicated with the premiers of the ten provinces. Their ideas have been invited and we are now working on the agenda, but it is likely to be at least another two or three weeks before it is finalized.

[Mr. Pearson.]

Mr. Scott (Danforth): In view of the differences which exist between the municipalities and the provincial governments about the nature of the housing shortage and its solution, is the minister considering any method by which the views of some of the larger cities and large urban areas might be ascertained?

Mr. Nicholson: Well, for one thing the union of mayors and reeves is presenting to the cabinet some ideas on the subject on Monday morning. Further action, if any, will, I imagine, depend on the nature of the discussions which take place next Monday.

Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister responsible for the housing corporation. I base my question on the fact that families are being separated because of the housing shortage. In order to help members of the house obtain information as to the psychological reasons that many money-lenders are not putting money into the mortgage market, can the minister say whether the standing committee on housing, urban development and public works will be reconvened soon?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the great majority of the premises included in the so-called question. It sounded to me more like a speech than a question. So far as I am concerned, if the committee wishes to meet to consider this matter there is no reason why it should not do so.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**REQUEST FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In the light of persistent reports that we are soon to face the semi-annual budget, would the minister prevail upon his colleagues so that we may deal now with the budget resolutions and the bills that follow, as shown in item 2 on the order paper, giving them priority over items such as No. 38? Otherwise we shall be caught up in the nonsense of having a new budget before dealing with the provisions of the previous budget.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this gives me an opportunity of adding a bit of information to that already before the house. It is my intention early