

Inquiries of the Ministry

Ontario a greater recognition of the inflationary problems of the country and of the need for them, like others, to keep their fees down.

INCREASE IN COST OF FISHING LICENCES BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, has the minister had time to check into the increase of 33½ per cent recently made by the Manitoba government in the cost of provincial fishing licences?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): No, I have not, Mr. Speaker, but the fishing is much better in British Columbia and I invite the hon. member to go there for his fishing.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO STUDY CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE CBC

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

When I asked him a question yesterday on the activities of the CBC, he was rather firm and categorical in giving this answer:

I will get in touch with the Secretary of State, so that he may ask the CBC for a report on its activities. Then the House of Commons will be able to decide what should be done about it.

Now, last evening incidentally, the CBC news service did not mention the answer of the Prime Minister, as they normally do. My question today is this: since some staff members of the famous Corporation will certainly want to save their necks, does the Prime Minister not agree that it would be better to appoint, from outside the present administration, an independent and impartial commission to study the whole situation and then report to the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I shall consider the suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister request the Secretary of State, who reports to the House on behalf of the CBC, to inform the CBC that we are not carrying on an active war with the United States of America?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Basford.]

ALLEGATION BY BROADCASTER RESPECTING ENTRY OF U.S. DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS INTO CANADA—INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, this is also a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Having regard to a series of broadcasts on the CBC during the last few days in which there has been a series of allegations that the security corps of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has given confidential information to the effect that "the teletype service between the FBI and the RCMP is used to receive advance warning of draft dodgers and deserters coming to Canada," described as "yellow tagging" by this broadcaster, one of those Americans now teaching at Canadian universities, will the Prime Minister have this matter looked into? Will he also bring to the attention of the Secretary of State the fact that in the last few days there has been an obvious increase, in rabbit fashion as it were, of broadcasters whose apparent purpose is to incite in Canada outbreaks similar to those taking place in the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious accusation by the right hon. member. I shall most certainly draw it to the attention of the Secretary of State and ask him to study it with diligence.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REVIEW OF AGREEMENT WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion as a follow-up to a question asked by my colleague the hon. member for Malpeque the other day concerning the Canada-New Brunswick regional development agreement, about which the minister's communiqué states, "Never before has federal development assistance been provided on such a large scale." Can the minister advise when it is intended to make modifications in the Canada-P.E.I. plan so that this new largesse may be extended to our province as well?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the program in connection with Prince Edward Island is being revised consistently by both parties. If the two governments feel it should be modified, we will be pleased to do so.