

Inquiries of the Ministry

You allowed the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) to state in the house that McGill University was being ill treated by the Quebec government.

Now, I happen to have a question for the Minister of Industry who saw fit to deal with this matter.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making an interesting point, but the question, in its present form, is certainly not in order, since the hon. member is not seeking to obtain urgent information in the circumstances.

Mr. Grégoire: It is rather urgent.

[*English*]

[*Later:*]

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member for Saint-Antoine-Westmount.

An hon. Member: In his capacity as minister?

Mr. Fairweather: I will deal with that question. Did the hon. member release to the press a copy of his telegram to the Quebec ministers, and if so would he be kind enough to extend the same courtesy to members of parliament?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to suggest that questions addressed to individual members of parliament are not in order. I assume, however, that the hon. member is addressing me in my capacity as Minister of Industry. I shall be very glad, as I offered earlier, to provide copies of this telegram to any member who desires it.

An hon. Member: Table it, then.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ROYAL COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENT
OF OMBUDSMAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, in view of the widespread interest in the visit to Canada of Sir Guy Powles, the New Zealand ombudsman, I should like to ask the Prime Minister about the commitment contained in last year's Speech from the Throne to the effect that the government intended to appoint a royal commission to investigate the desirability of appointing a parliamentary commissioner or ombudsman for Canada. Does the government intend to initiate such an investigation, or has this been dropped from the program?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We are looking into this matter, Mr. Speaker. It is more complicated here than in the case of a country like New Zealand because it has federal-provincial implications. Therefore it may take a little time before a decision is reached.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the government promised to set up a royal commission to investigate this matter, has the government changed its mind about initiating such an investigation?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker; and the commission in question when it is set up will investigate not only the question of an ombudsman but an administrative tribunal.

[*Translation*]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATIONQUEBEC—EXTENSION OF TELEVISION SERVICE
IN CHIBOUGAMAU REGION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Has the minister received a brief submitted by the Chamber of Commerce of Chibougamau with a view to obtaining free C.B.C. television service for this area which is not served at present by government-owned radio or television network?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Unless this question is of a very urgent nature, which I fail to see at the moment, I suggest that the hon. member put it on the order paper.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, the matter has been urgent for at least three years, and it would be about time the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[*English*]

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER ADVERTISING PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that the MacLaren advertising agency has just received \$151,000 from the federal government for advertising the benefits of the Canada Pension Plan, and in view of the minister's announcement yesterday that this advertising agency will be one of three participating in a \$5 million advertising program