

much that this type of action be initiated in order to protect the Canadian consumer.

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in replying on behalf of the minister I would say that pursuant to the minister's statement of November 16 in reply to the hon. member, the Prices and Incomes Commission has inquired into the situation. As hon. members may be aware, the first steps taken by the Prices and Incomes Commission when it receives a report of a proposed price increase is to check with the company to determine if the report is true. If the answer is in the affirmative, a preliminary investigation is initiated. If the preliminary report warrants it, a full-scale investigation is conducted, followed by a published report on the situation. Nothing more can usefully be said at this time. However, the hon. member is aware, of course, of the minister's determination to concern himself actively with allegations of this kind.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—ESTABLISHMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION TO STUDY ATTITUDE FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS IN QUEBEC

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, on November 23 past, I asked the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) to appoint a royal commission to investigate the CBC French network with regard to the crisis which occurred recently in Quebec and terrorism in general.

At that time the Secretary of State did not give me a satisfactory answer. This is why I should like tonight to ask him the question again.

In my opinion, the French network of the CBC is a controlled agency which does not give an objective information to the extent that it becomes sometimes dishonest. It has become the voice of the revolution however it is a Crown corporation towards which every Canadian citizen pays taxes without having any control on it.

CBC totally ignores the positive side of our democracy, our institutions and our public men but gives the people a false image of the truth to serve its purpose. Besides, since the Canadian people pay taxes, they are entitled to more respect from the CBC.

Mr. Speaker, CBC has become an ivory tower. It is an untouchable organization and more over a national shame. We want a full enquiry and a complete reform of the CBC, and a real clean-up. We want CBC to serve all the Canadian people and not only the revolutionary forces. We demand a complete investigation on the activities and the operations of the CBC French network so that the French Canadians have the same good quality service as our English speaking friends.

We want to know how CBC spends so indiscriminately public money allowing for instance exorbitant expense accounts.

Mr. Speaker, this is a shameless waste of money at the service of violence and terrorism.

I think Quebecers and all Canadians have a right to full information. In view of the fact that the CBC is a

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Crown corporation and a public service we would like it to be a public service and not to be only at the service of certain private interests.

This is why we are doing our utmost to obtain the appointment of a Royal Commission that will allow Canadians to know what is going on in this ivory tower since the Secretary of State denies us any kind of information in this regard.

Mr. Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as we know, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Act the C.R.T.C. may sponsor research relating to any aspect of broadcasting.

Under another section of the act, the C.R.T.C. may inquire and hold a public hearing following a complaint by a person or a group of persons with respect to any matter within the powers of the commission.

I do not think that the C.R.T.C., up to now, has actually received any complaint concerning the matter with which the hon. member dealt. As the Secretary of State said in the House, the C.R.T.C. has asked some stations for the tapes or transcriptions pertaining to some programs, in conformity with section 4(5) of the C.R.T.C. regulations and with the provisions of the Broadcasting Act.

• (10:10 p.m.)

[English]

AGRICULTURE—ALLEGED LOSS OF QUOTAS BY WESTERN CANADA DAIRY FARMERS

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, today I asked a question of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) concerning the declining dairy quotas. I asked the minister if he would intervene to reverse this situation before the dairy industry suffers irreparable loss. In his reply the minister referred to the question as "an erroneous preamble which makes it impossible to answer". He went on to say that no one in western Canada has lost a dairy quota unless he has given it up.

Mr. Speaker, from the hon. gentleman who is responsible for agriculture in this country I found the lack of reply and the manner in which it was delivered very disconcerting. I can understand why at the Liberal party conference at the weekend the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) made an impassioned plea to delegates to have greater concern for agriculture because the government was weak in agricultural policy. He was putting it mildly, in light of the situation to which I have referred.

I notice that at the same conference the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said he was humble about agriculture. I suppose the comment on that remark would be that he has much to be humble about. But he further said that the Minister of Agriculture keeps him fully informed, so I can understand the Prime Minister's difficulty in this respect in light of the answer I received today. Obviously, we have a real problem in agriculture and I am not just drawing this difficulty out of the air. The Depart-