

Inquiries of the Ministry

I ask him if it would be possible to know the C.B.C. policy.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member admits he has already asked that question and I wonder if it is appropriate to put it a second time.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I should like to point out as humbly as I can before the Secretary of State that this is an extremely important question, which is highly complex, and that before it is looked into by the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts, it would surely be advisable to have the C.B.C. state its policy, if it has a policy—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must interrupt the hon. member. This is a debate between the hon. member and the minister, and I do not believe it would be advisable to go any further.

[*English*]

PUBLIC SERVICE**DISMISSAL OF COMMISSIONAIRES FOR LANGUAGE REASONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. It is prompted by an article which appeared in today's press to the effect that 12 English speaking veterans of the Canadian Corps of Commissionnaires are being displaced from security jobs because they are not bilingual. Is this the new policy of the present government?

[*Later:*]

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Did the Secretary of State consult with his colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs before he extended the thanks of a grateful country and fired the commissionnaires who were serving in the various government buildings coming under his jurisdiction?

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**ATTENDANCE OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS AS OBSERVERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question relating to the forthcoming federal-provincial conference. I ask it in the light of information

I have received that the government of Ontario will be accompanied by members of opposition parties as observers at the conference. Would the Prime Minister inform the house whether this will also be arranged in the case of members of opposition parties in this parliament?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have stated that we planned to reserve places for members of opposition parties and for members of the government caucus during the public debate at the constitutional conference. I have requested this of the provinces as a procedure for the conference. There has been no objection to it so far, and I think this would be agreeable to everyone. Perhaps that is even more certainly the case if the information just conveyed to me is correct.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he will arrange to have the working papers drawn up by the federal government for the conference released now so that members of the opposition who will be attending the conference as observers and, indeed, the Canadian public generally may have an opportunity to give the fullest consideration to these papers prior to the conference.

Mr. Trudeau: I would be very anxious that this be done. Discussions to that effect are proceeding now between officials of the federal government and of the provinces who have been meeting for the past three days in preparation for the conference on December 16. There has been no word given to me yet of any decision that might have been reached by the officials at that meeting. I do feel, like the Leader of the Opposition, that it would be to the advantage of the public if all parties at this conference could agree to release their position papers before the conference, but if that is not done I think we will press very strongly to release them afterwards.

TELEVISION**REPORTED DIRECTIVE TO C.B.C. RESPECTING EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Is he in a position to tell the house what directives he has issued to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to provide ETV facilities on an interim basis? I ask