

continuing number of executions in Cuba, and whether in view of Canada's recognition of this government an appropriate Canadian note in this connection is being considered.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question as I understand it relates entirely to executions in Cuba, which I am sure the hon. member for Assiniboia would not consider to be the responsibility of the minister. Questions should be directed to the public administration under the responsibility of the minister concerned.

Mr. Argue: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest with great deference that since our Department of External Affairs considers Canada's relationships with all nations, when any action in any nation might endanger the cause of freedom as we understand it, I feel it is appropriate for the Canadian Prime Minister to make a statement on behalf of the Canadian government; and I must put forward this precedent, that the Prime Minister in an agreeable fashion during the course of the last session made his opinion and our opinion known about action in regard to Imre Nagy in another country. Therefore I feel that in the field of external affairs this is an appropriate matter for comment, and I might add that in today's newspapers a very high official of the United States state department has made a comment on this matter.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I realize the feelings that must be engendered in the hearts of peoples everywhere, but I will go no further than to say this. The government is following very closely the events in Cuba as the picture emerges from the various reports, some confused and others capable of a variety of interpretations. In considering the situation the government will have in mind the same deep concern for the respect of civil liberties and democratic ways that it has demonstrated in the past.

CANADA-U.S.—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEETING OF MINISTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. L. Houck (Niagara Falls): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Is it the intention of the Minister of Finance to make a statement to the house on the results of the meeting of the ministers of the Canadian and United States governments?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to do that at any time if it is the wish of the house. As my hon. friend is aware, a communique was issued at the completion of the

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meeting a week ago last Tuesday. I shall be glad to table that if it is the wish of my hon. friend and the house.

(Translation):

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

MONTREAL—SUGGESTED INTERVENTION OF MINISTER IN LABOUR DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Labour a question. What action has he taken, either on his own or through his department, to settle the current dispute between radio and television producers in Montreal and the C.B.C.?

(Text):

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, since I was not prepared with my device for translation and since I did not know the hon. member for Laurier would ask me a question in French, I am going to take his question as notice and give an answer tomorrow.

(Translation):

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, now that we have simultaneous translation in the house, and since the hon. minister is listening in at this moment may I be allowed to repeat my question?

Mr. Denis: Ask the hon. minister if he is ready.

Mr. Chevrier: If the hon. minister is ready, here is my question. What action has he taken, on his own account or through his department, to settle the current dispute between the radio and television producers in Montreal and the C.B.C.?

(Text):

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member's question I wish to state that I was requested by representatives of the producers to intervene in the dispute after this group of producers had gone out on strike in supporting their demands. On January 8 I received a request by telegram signed by Mr. Fernand Quirion, president of the producers association of Montreal, and by Mr. Jean Marchand, general secretary of the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour, stating that the C.B.C. had refused to recognize the producers association or to sign an agreement with it dealing with working conditions of producers, stating that the corporation had refused to bargain officially with the association and requesting my immediate intervention in this dispute.