

Inquiries of the Ministry

National Revenue in a spirit of good, clean, economy-minded fun.

Mr. Pickersgill: And frivolity.

Mr. McCleave: Is he aware that on the C.B.C. television program "Viewpoint" it sometimes happens that one member of the parliamentary press gallery interviews another member of the same press gallery, within the scope of a five-minute broadcast, and that this strange habit is spreading like wildfire, burning the taxpayers' dollars for other C.B.C. programs? Will the minister find out if both the reporter who interviews and the reporter who is interviewed are paid?

Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): The minister has been so busy in his office that he has not had an opportunity to see the program, therefore he is not in a position to comment upon the accuracy of the question. However, he will consider the matter.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REPORTED TIGHTER SURVEILLANCE OF PRIVATELY OWNED STATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. Hansell (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. It is based on a Canadian Press dispatch in yesterday's *Gazette* under the headline "C.B.C. Plans Controls Tightening". It reads:

The publicly owned C.B.C. today gave notice that it plans tighter surveillance of the operations of privately owned radio and television stations in line with recommendations by the Fowler royal commission on broadcasting.

My question is, does the government regard this as a move in the right direction, and would not tighter controls be a denial of the democratic right of freedom of the air and freedom of speech?

Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): The hon. member for Dollard asked me a similar question yesterday and I commented on it then. I do not think I have anything more to add.

REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ambrose Holowach (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Since the report of the recent royal commission on broadcasting has been available for government study for some seven months, and because of the widespread public interest in the

future status of the C.B.C., would the minister indicate to the house whether it is the intention of the government to set up a parliamentary committee for the purpose of examining the present and proposed activities of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

SHIPPING

LASQUETI ISLAND, B.C.—STATEMENT ON PROVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on December 7 the hon. member for Comox-Alberni inquired regarding the possibility of restoring regular steamer service to Lasqueti island, and if the Department of Transport could provide the services of a steamer to take supplies to this island.

Regular service to Lasqueti island has been provided in the past on the basis of assurance of assistance from the provincial government. This service was discontinued when this assistance was not received. The federal government has not paid any subsidy for the service in this area for over seven years.

I am inclined to feel the problem is one of provincial responsibility. It might be met by a small ferry service of the type now undertaken by the province of British Columbia and by other provinces in similar cases.

[Later:]

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport relating to the answer he gave earlier to my question with regard to the situation at Lasqueti island.

I would like to ask the minister if he would not agree that the emergency situation existing at Lasqueti island could be met in part if the federal government would exercise its jurisdiction by an amendment to the Transport Act which would bring the coastal shipping companies under the jurisdiction of the board of transport commissioners in order to prevent the sudden cessation of established services which is bringing hardship to whole communities on the British Columbia coast.

Mr. Hees: The case which the hon. member brought to my attention is one that has been looked after by a shipping company on the understanding that it would be given assistance by the provincial government. As I explained this morning, the service was discontinued as of last Wednesday because the promised assistance was not forthcoming. I think the best way to overcome this present difficulty is for the provincial government to make good the promises which I am told it made to the shipping company.