

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF BROADCASTING ACT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he tell the house whether it is intended to introduce this session the amendment to the Broadcasting Act forecast in the speech from the throne?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not intended to introduce an amendment this session.

CIVIL DEFENCE—INQUIRY AS TO CALLING ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the house leader this question. In view of the fact that he says that before the end of next week we will be discussing the estimates of the Department of National Defence and the Department of Defence Production, will it be possible to bring on before the end of next week the estimate for civil defence under the Minister of National Health and Welfare?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): As the estimate dealing with civil defence comes under the Department of National Health and Welfare, and I am quite sure the hon. member for Essex East will be making at least one and probably more long speeches on the first item of the estimates of that department, I therefore think it would hardly be appropriate to call both estimates at the same time.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I have a supplementary question. My hon. friend is quite right in saying that when we come to the Department of National Health and Welfare the hon. member for Essex East will have many constructive things to say. But as my friend the Secretary of State for External Affairs knows, the government has decided now to apportion the responsibility for civil defence among three departments of government, namely the Minister of National Defence, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and the Prime Minister and civil defence is not normally regarded as fully integrated under health and welfare.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I would say—

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I must point out to the hon. member that the purpose of asking questions is to secure information, not to make statements.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Now that Your Honour has recognized the foundation for my question I would simply ask the Minister of Public Works or the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the leader of the house whether he would be good enough to arrange that all defence matters, including civil defence, might be discussed at the same time.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, I am always anxious to meet the wishes of my old friend the hon. member for Essex East, but I am afraid I cannot do so on this occasion.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Then we will have to continue on civil defence.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON CURRENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue, as the responsible minister for the C.B.C., if he is now in a position to give a report on the situation in that organization which, it is apparent, is most important to all of us.

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): No, I am not. As hon. members know, I was not in the house yesterday because of a commitment which I made months before to address the biennial conference of the taxation officers of the Department of National Revenue who were meeting in St. Catharines. I left here the night before last and unfortunately was away from the house yesterday when several questions were asked of me, one detailed one by the Leader of the Opposition asking for specific information and others by the hon. member for Essex East, the hon. member for Laurier, and so on.

On the way to St. Catharines yesterday morning I saw some of the directors in the Royal York, had a cup of coffee with them and discussed the situation briefly. They told me that later in the day they were meeting some of the senior directors of the corporation and having a consultation with them. I went on to St. Catharines, returned late last night and caught the train. I bought a *Globe and Mail*, and after the train had left Toronto I read the *Globe and Mail* and found that some developments had taken place during the day. That was the first intimation I had about it.