

In answer to my hon. friend's question in respect of the Department of Justice being consulted, I may say this is a speculative question which would depend upon the result of my investigation into the alleged circumstances.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question. Since the allegations contained in the article may have a bearing on narcotics, does the minister not think it would be a wise course to consult the officials of the Department of Justice immediately?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's further supplementary question appears to be argumentative.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question. Would the minister inform the house whether the Department of Justice or the R.C.M.P. have been asked to investigate the possible use of narcotics in this matter?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question seems to be hypothetical. This is the reply that was given by the hon. minister a moment ago, and I am inclined to agree with the attitude she has taken with regard to the third part of the question raised by the hon. member, that the course of action he is suggesting now would depend on the answers which would be obtained to questions 1 and 2.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Perhaps my question was not clear to Your Honour. What I am asking the minister is—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Nielsen:**—whether the R.C.M.P. or the Department of Justice have been requested to investigate the possible use of narcotics in this case. My question is seeking information.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think the Chair can accept that question.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR IN DISPUTE BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State, in the absence of the Prime Minister, arising out of the appointment of the publisher of the *Vancouver Sun* as mediator in the dispute between C.B.C. management and "Seven Days". Would the hon. lady inform the house whether before Mr. Keate was appointed account was taken of the fact that the *Vancouver Sun* supported

the C.B.C. management editorially in the dispute; and if so, what assurance was received that Mr. Keate is in a position to deal with the dispute in an impartial and objective way?

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether account was taken of the editorial position taken by the *Vancouver Sun*, but I happen to know that Mr. Keate was out of the country for the past two weeks and had no part in any editorial position taken in this regard.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. lady a question in connection with this matter. In the appointment of the mediator by the Prime Minister was it made clear, with regard to the statement of the president of the C.B.C. that there could be no reinstatement for the two promoters—if that is the proper expression for Mr. Watson and Mr. LaPierre—whether the mediation was to be on the basis of their removal regardless of any other condition?

**Miss LaMarsh:** I have not seen reduced to writing the terms which were agreed upon between the producers and the C.B.C., although I had them read to me. But it is my impression that the terms under which Mr. Keate is empowered to discuss this question with both sides are broader than that immediate issue.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is not an answer to my question. I am trying to find out whether it was made perfectly clear that the adamant attitude taken by the president of the C.B.C. would be alleviated to the extent that a determination by Mr. Keate would include the question whether or not these two people should be removed as promoters or producers of "This Hour Has Seven Days".

**Miss LaMarsh:** Mr. Speaker, if I understand the right hon. gentleman, he is asking whether Mr. Keate might consider the reinstatement of these people, whether this is part of his purview. It is my understanding that Mr. Keate's responsibility is wide enough to include that question should he actually so decide.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the hon. lady whether Mr. Keate was requested by the government that whatever else he may consider, he will go into the question of the