

Inquiries of the Ministry
**CANADIAN BROADCASTING
 CORPORATION**

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION RESPECTING
 PROGRAM "NINE TO FIVE"

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, shortly after this question was raised by my hon. friend I was in touch with the chairman of the board of trustees. To date I have received no report on any aspect of the operation of the trusteeship. I hope within the near future to have a meeting with Mr. Justice Dryer, and at that time I will indicate to him the interest of the House of Commons in having a report before prorogation.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the minister whether any order in council has been passed containing regulations for this board?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether it is a fact that the trustees have retained a public relations firm that is communicating with all the Canadian seamen and asking them personal questions relating to their employment, what they do during the off season, and generally requesting very full information. Upon what basis are such requests made, and for what purpose?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the governor in council has approved an establishment for the trustees in which is included, as I understand it, at least one public relations officer. I have no information whatsoever with respect to any questionnaire or activity of the trusteeship except that I did read in the newspapers a statement made by one of the trustees that an effort would be made to gather information on the conditions of life of the seamen involved in the trusteeship.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Would the minister table the questionnaire; because it seems like an extraordinary procedure for the board of trustees to follow.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to bring this matter to the attention of the chairman of the board of trustees and will proceed carefully so that in no way will I interfere with the responsibilities which parliament has given directly to the trustees.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Will the minister answer whether he will table the questionnaire in the house, or is he going to take the same attitude that the Minister of Agriculture did a moment ago?

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State if he is ready to answer the question I addressed to the Minister of Justice a week ago concerning the C.B.C.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. member would refresh my mind by asking the question again.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Justice, as Acting Prime Minister, whether he would report to the house concerning the authors who signed a petition protesting against discrimination shown by C.B.C. with regard to actors in the program entitled "De 9 à 5", by dismissing one of the characters on the ground that he was a separatist?

[*Text*]

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, I will be glad to give an answer to this question. Parliament, when it passed the Broadcasting Act in 1958, vested in the board of directors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation control over broadcasting. Control over broadcasting involves decisions by the corporation, which in my view it could not possibly delegate to anyone else, with regard to what shall be broadcast and what shall not be broadcast. It does not seem to me, therefore, that it would be proper for the government to seek, as a government, to interfere with those decisions which parliament has decided should be made by the board of directors.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Secretary of State tell the house when he will set up a special committee to consider the C.B.C. report, which was not done this year or last year?

[*Text*]

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I think I did say the other day that I intended to suggest to my colleagues that a committee on broadcasting be set up at the next session of parliament.

PENSIONS

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING OLD AGE ASSISTANCE,
 BLIND AND DISABLED PAYMENTS, ETC.

The house resumed, from Monday, December 9, consideration of the motion of Miss