

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

EXTENSION OF TELEVISION COVERAGE TO
NORTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. In view of continuing delays in the extension of television coverage to remote parts of Canada, especially northwestern Newfoundland, and in the light of the evidence of the relaxation of austerity measures, will the minister ask for an immediate review of the situation so that these areas may be afforded this communications media as quickly as possible?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the facts and situations in remote areas of Canada are continuously under review. The Corporation makes constant efforts to reach these far off places. The percentage of those that have not been reached yet declines every year.

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[English]

NATIONAL MUSEUMS

EXAMINATION OF FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION BY
COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Secretary of State whether, in view of the disturbing charges made by the hon. member for Battle River with respect to the administration of the museum branch following the presentation to the House of a motion under Standing Order 43, he is considering referring this matter to the appropriate committee of the House for examination?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what the Leader of the Opposition is referring to, but one thing is certain and I keep reminding hon. members of it, the Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts, in the course of its forthcoming sittings, may well discuss any matter relating to broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts. I am positive that if the committee feels that the point made by the Leader of the Opposition is important, it will be put on its agenda and hearings will be held on the matter.

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I assume from the reply of the Secretary of State to my question that he has not conducted any investigation himself into the charges made by the hon. member for Battle River?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: No, Mr. Speaker. I merely said that, unfortunately, the charges brought by the hon. member for Battle River are a mystery to me, for the time being,

Inquiries of the Ministry

perhaps because I cannot remember now who is the member for Battle River.

[English]

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Secretary of State not aware of the great increases in administrative costs, travel expenses, and in other areas in the past year or so which have taken place in the museums' branch. Has he not looked into this matter at all?

An hon. Member: This is not a slow growth area.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Oh! I see, Mr. Speaker. It comes back to me now and I beg the hon. member to excuse me.

Indeed, there is an inquiry going on on this subject and, of course, it is conducted by the Museum Society that will ultimately send me a report. This is therefore a question which is before the Board of Trustees of the National Museums for consideration.

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[English]

HEALTH

REDUCTION IN GRANTS TO NATIONAL CANCER
INSTITUTE

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Why have grants to the National Cancer Institute been reduced, and what is the government's intention with regard to this and other grants this year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question should be placed on the order paper.

INCLUSION OF PARAMEDICAL SERVICES
UNDER MEDICARE

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, if I get up any more, I shall need the assistance of paramedical services myself. I shall try again. Is the minister considering allowing paramedical services to be included in medicare on a province by province basis?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, may I advise the hon. member that a federal-provincial conference of health ministers is to take place this week to deal with the whole question of how the extension of the services of the various health professions may be handled by the federal and provincial governments.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether the government intends to advise the provincial representatives at the conference that the federal government will be prepared to make its contribution to any province that is prepared to extend paramedical services under the medicare program?