

METHOD OF DEALING WITH INQUIRIES
BY MEMBERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and has to do with the change of policy on the part of the Department of Veterans Affairs which apparently has not been announced by the minister. When, and for what reason did the minister instruct the district pension advocates to refer all inquiries from members of parliament to the deputy minister or the departmental secretary?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If this question is in order it should be placed on the order paper.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL

SUGGESTED PROVISION OF GREATER
INDEPENDENCE AND AUTHORITY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister which he might like to take as notice. In view of the very important allegations made by the Auditor General in his last report and in view of the very important role that this official plays, would the Prime Minister give early consideration to amending the Financial Administration Act to provide for greater independence and authority for that office?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look into the matter.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION

SASKATOON—APPLICATION FOR TELE-
VISION STATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reg Cantelon (Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Now that the Prime Minister has received the letter with the petition from 325 professors at the University of Saskatchewan asking that the federal government permit the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to establish and operate a television station in Saskatoon, will he urge the Board of Broadcast Governors to issue a permit for a C.B.C. station in that area?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is another question which I suggest to the hon. member he might want to place on the order paper.

Inquiries of the Ministry

FINANCE

U.S. TAX ON RAPESEED OIL AND MEAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring a matter of urgency to the attention of the Minister of Finance before he drafts his budget. It has to do with duties and tariffs on edible oils. Is the minister aware of the fact that edible oils such as rapeseed oil and others coming from the United States, Sweden and Germany enter Canada duty free while Canadian edible oils, in particular rapeseed oil, sold to the United States are subject to a one cent per pound extra import tax? Rapeseed meal going to the United States bears a tariff of \$6 per ton. Would the minister take this into consideration when he drafts his budget?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the minister will do that. If the hon. member wants to pursue the matter further he might place his question on the order paper.

Mr. Rapp: Ten o'clock.

COAL

NOVA SCOTIA—INQUIRY AS TO
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare in his capacity as the minister from Nova Scotia. Would the minister indicate whether \$25 million in aid to the Cape Breton coal industry will be made available and would he specifically make reference to the \$10 million promised to open a new mine at Lingan?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member poses a very important question but it cannot be asked of the minister as a minister representing a specific district or province. The question can be asked of the minister only in his official capacity as minister of a certain department.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I put the question to the minister because of his participation in the announcement of government policy in this respect, and I feel he is capable of answering.

[Later:]

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I wish to direct my question at this time to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys and