

Inquiries of the Ministry
INFORMATION CANADA

SUGGESTED DUPLICATION OF SERVICES—REDUCTION IN
DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC RELATIONS BUDGETS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to direct to the Minister without Portfolio who answers for Information Canada. Can the hon. gentleman say whether representations have been received from the Public Libraries Trustees Association of Canada objecting to the duplication of its public information services which would be caused by the establishment of additional public Information Canada offices?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): No such representations have been brought to my notice, although I have received expressions of strong support from librarians for the concept of Information Canada and for the plan to establish, as recommended by the task force on government information, regional inquiry centres which librarians see as a valuable complementary element in a public information system. We are anxious to co-operate with libraries and I think libraries are anxious to co-operate with us.

While I am on my feet I might refer to a question which was asked yesterday by the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster indicating that Information Canada would be taking over programs of departmental information branches. As I think the hon. member knows, this is not the case, and there was no such announcement.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, while the minister is in an expansive mood—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have just seen illustrated, for the benefit of hon. members, the difficulty which arises when two questions are asked or answered at the same time. The hon. member for Surrey has a supplementary to the first question and the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster has a supplementary to the second. The hon. member for Surrey.

Mr. Mather: Would the minister check with Information Canada to make sure that no such representation as I mentioned has been made?

Mr. Stanbury: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bell: Will the minister give the House an assurance that there will be definite reductions in the information services and budgets of individual departments now that he has taken over, in the way he has explained, a \$150 million budget?

Mr. Stanbury: As the hon. member knows, I am sure, there is no budget of \$150 million. If he reads the report of the task force on government information he will see that the figure he mentions includes such things as application forms—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—PAYMENT BY QUEBEC FOR
SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since the Quebec Minister of Justice is greatly concerned because Quebec could be compelled to pay the cost of the armed forces stay in that province, could the Prime Minister answer that question to-day?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the beginning of the question is true, but if it is I will simply say that the Quebec Minister of Justice has no reason to be greatly concerned.

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[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ARREST OF CERTAIN NEWS BROADCASTERS UNDER WAR
MEASURES ACT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, on Monday I asked the Secretary of State a question concerning three or four members of Radio-Canada who are news broadcasters. I asked the minister whether or not they, having been picked up, had been released, and he said that he would find out the answer to the question.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I said to the hon. member—certainly not yesterday, since I was not in the House—that I did not have any such information and that I would try to get it. I have not yet obtained it; as soon as I have it, I shall transmit it to the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion gave to the minister the information that he himself made public, namely, that several members of Radio-Canada who were broadcasters apparently had a code which they used to communicate with the FLQ? Did his colleague give him that information and did he make any investigation in regard thereto? Can the minister give the House some information on that matter, because at the time the information was given by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, he was still free to speak?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, this piece of information, whether it is accurate or not,—I have not checked it—is one that I have read also in the newspapers, like the right hon. member. But the right hon. member for Prince Albert has had a tendency in the last few weeks to repeat constantly the same mistake. He seems to believe that the Secretary of State is the minister in charge of a specialized police force. I want to inform him that such is not my role. I have no jurisdiction over any police