

Minister know, that the minister in question has something to hide and cover up?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, that minister has indicated his willingness to appear before the McDonald commission and the Keable inquiry. He is quite prepared to give evidence before these bodies which are attempting to get at the truth. With respect to the statement by the hon. member, it is my understanding that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs did not express a refusal to attend the committee; he expressed some doubt or misgiving. In fact, the press reports as to what was said are rather contradictory.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REASON FOR ATTEMPTING TO STOP KEABLE COMMISSION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Deputy Prime Minister now tell the House, in light of his last answer, why it was that the government, with all its sources and resources, tried to stop the commission from finding out the true facts, so that a cover-up is still existing with reference to the same?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General has already made very clear the reasons behind the government's intervention with respect to the Keable inquiry.

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● (1442)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REASON DEPARTMENT DOES NOT USE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION FOR PUBLICITY

Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Montreal-Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Through the various private news media, whether it be on TV, on radio or in the papers, Montreal residents have been exposed for some time to an advertising campaign which his department is sponsoring to inform the public of its eagerness to help Montreal which is the economic core of the province and, through it, the province as a whole. My question is this: I find it strange that this advertising campaign is carried only over the private networks of the news media. I wonder why his department is not having its message aired over our state-owned network which is the CBC.

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we are carrying out this campaign to promote the assistance program which we have especially designed for the Montreal area. We have offered the CBC to participate in this advertising campaign, but for reasons which we find hard to accept, the CBC has

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unfortunately decided to turn down our offer; this is why the great advertising tool the CBC is is not broadcasting our message over its radio or TV networks. It is fortunate, however, that privately-owned news media have deemed this program useful and decided to publicize it not only over their radio and TV networks, but also in the press.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

POSSIBILITY OF INQUIRY INTO LABOUR-MANAGEMENT MATTERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. Minister of Labour. Over the weekend there was at least one radio broadcast which indicated the government was considering the establishment of a commission or an inquiry into management-labour matters generally in the country. Can the minister confirm or deny that report, or amplify it if need be?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker. Because of the notice the hon. member gave my office, I have some idea of the radio broadcast to which he is referring. There was reference to the possibility of an industrial commission under the labour code to look into certain questions regarding lay-offs in federal jurisdictions. It was based on a statement made by someone in the Department of Labour. Actually, that is the case. Many of the railway unions have been anxious for some investigation into the question of lay-offs. We have decided to look into that, more pertinent to the information which may be available from corporations in that regard. It is in the process of active consideration now.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. Minister for his answer. Could he tell the House if it is now possible for him to advise us as to when this inquiry will take place? Is this something which is to be delayed for some months, or is this a matter of almost immediate attention so far as his department is concerned?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): No, Mr. Speaker. It is a subject of immediate attention.

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ENERGY

NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE—ALLEGED LACK OF GUARANTEE TO PROTECT CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions for the President of Privy Council regarding the pipeline. When I listened to the minister, I heard him use the following words: "We believe we are protected", "optimized" and "There will be a bill brought in eventually for monitoring purposes". I have looked at the agreement and there are no guarantees in the agreement signed by the President of Privy Council on behalf of the government and his