

the Crown in the right of a province—and I can read the regulations?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I do not see how there could have been any encroachment on the order in council mentioned by the hon. member since no licence has been issued. There has been a private transaction whereby some American interests were purchased by a group of Canadian interests. No licence has as yet been issued. The CRTC merely told the new group of owners it would process their application at the end of June and decide whether a licence will be issued in their favour. There has certainly been no encroachment, since no licence has been issued.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the answer of the Secretary of State does the Prime Minister intend to modify or amend the cabinet directive of June 4, under section 27 of the Broadcasting Act, prohibiting the issuing of broadcasting licences to agents of the Crown in right of a province, which it was declared on June 4 could not be done?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, why should we amend it, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Nowlan: On a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, partly because of the answer of the Prime Minister who stated earlier that all provinces should be treated on a basis of equality, by this directive of June 4, 1970, education institutions in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan were eliminated—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will recognize at this point that we are debating the issue as between the hon. member and the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, and this is what I was humbly trying to suggest earlier should not be done. If the hon. member has a supplementary he might ask it now, and then I will have to go to other hon. members who are seeking the floor.

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AGRICULTURE

SEIZURE BY QUEBEC INSPECTORS OF EGGS FROM OTHER PROVINCES

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of reports of action taken by government inspectors in Quebec who have raided food stores and removed eggs from the shelves which they alleged were imported from other provinces, has the minister been in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture of Quebec in order to discuss this action which is rather unprecedented?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed with the Minister of Agriculture of Quebec the legality or otherwise of this action. What I

Inquiries of the Ministry

have discussed with him and with other Ministers of Agriculture are ways and means by which we can avoid this happening again, or indeed escalating. I would hope the House would find it possible to respond to the request that has been made in that regard.

Mr. Gleave: In view of these new developments in the chicken and egg war, is the Department of Agriculture undertaking a crash research program in order to develop a new type of hen that will lay eggs identifiable as to the province of origin?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES MANIC LIMITED—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO USE OF FEDERAL GRANTS

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Having told me earlier that generous grants had been paid to Automobiles Manic Ltée, I ask him whether he intends to investigate the matter any further in order to determine whether some unscrupulous persons might not possibly have "pocketed" these federal government grants?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, Mr. Speaker, because had this occurred the matter would by now have been brought to court. We did investigate but not concerning problem such as that.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS IN APRIL

Mr. Colin D. Gibson (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour. As the matter of unemployment is urgent, can the energetic and able Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: I'm glad you woke up, Rip Van Winkle.

[Translation]

Mr. Gibson: You could perhaps understand if you would listen.

[English]

Can the parliamentary secretary inform the House if applications for unemployment insurance increased or decreased in the month of April?