

are the only way for hon. members to seek information which affects themselves. They are not directed to any particular ministry, but the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) replies for the government.

The representation commissions are emanations of this house; they are responsible to this house. Hon. members have no means of communication with the representation commissions other than through the Secretary of State, and I would put it to Your Honour, and to all hon. members, that neither the representation commissioner nor any of the representation commissions is above the legitimate demands for information from members of the house. They are not satellites that have been shot off beyond recall nor reach. I would further point out that since hon. members are now to engage in a particular debate on redistribution, it is an affront to the house to deny the legitimate information sought by hon. members whose questions have been posed in the only way they could be put, namely on the order paper and directed to the Secretary of State.

I realize that the commissions are not responsible to the government. We know this; but members on the government side are in the same position as we are, whether they be cabinet ministers or not. Therefore I would say that this is a point that affects the privileges of the members of the house. I would deem it appropriate for Your Honour to take the matter under advisement and, if necessary, that Your Honour, whose predecessor had something to do with the appointment of the representation commissions, see that they be compelled to answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I shall have an opportunity to take these suggestions under advisement as urged by the hon. member for Edmonton West.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, having just returned from a lecture given by Dr. David, a great heart specialist, during which he advised members of parliament to practice serenity, I wish to address a philosophical problem to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister please inform the house how he reconciles the policy of his department with the policy of the Department of National Health and Welfare with respect to the growing and the use of tobacco?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The rules of the house do not provide for acceptance by the Chair of philosophical questions.

SPORTS

FAILURE OF CANADA TO OBTAIN WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Has he received, or is he aware of the widespread general protest regarding the influence of the unreasonable and unpractical park policies he has instituted, and of their being a factor in Canada failing to get the winter Olympics for 1972?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I want to say at once that I and my department regret very much that we failed in our second bid for the winter games. We had done all in our power to convince those who were concerned over conditions in the national park that, in our view, there would be no permanent damage, and very little temporary damage done out of holding the games. Further, we have received the agreement of our representatives, who did their best to bring the games to Canada, that we had done our utmost. At the same time I wish to assure the house that this will have no effect whatsoever on the development of Banff as a prime area for winter sports. There is already a very large sum of money invested in it, and there will be a great deal more.

Mr. Thompson: As a supplementary question, would the minister not agree that the parks policies he has instituted have given the conservationists the opportunity to influence the general Olympic council?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question is argumentative and cannot be accepted by the Chair.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORT ON RUN-THROUGHS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of Labour. Having regard to the manner in which he discussed the Freedman report in Winnipeg yesterday, is he now in a position