

up an advisory committee on executive compensation in the public service in accordance with the recommendation of the joint Senate and House of Commons committee on the public service, can he now inform the house whether this advisory committee has been established and, if so, who are its members?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, at this point I am not able to indicate the names of the members of the committee. We have received recommendations with regard to persons who should be approached and have been approaching some of these persons. When the slate is completed I will be very happy to announce it in the house.

Mr. Lewis: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps I might bring to the attention of the hon. member that this very question is on the order paper; therefore I do not believe I should allow further questions on the matter at this time.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

EXTENSION OF FRENCH RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE IN WEST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State.

In view of the principle which states that both official languages must be recognized from coast to coast and in view of the fact that I have been asking for five years that the C.B.C.'s radio and television services be given in British Columbia, is the minister in a position to tell us today if the radio and television services of the C.B.C.'s French network has improved in British Columbia?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hesitate to recognize and allow the question which the hon. member is asking the minister, namely if the service has improved. Of course, the minister is being asked to express an opinion and it would seem that in that respect the question is out of order.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I can amend my question by asking if the French radio and television service is provided at this time to the French-speaking people of British Columbia?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I think my question is perfectly in order and it seems to me the minister should tell us whether or not the French language is respected in British Columbia as we respect it elsewhere in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's supplementary question is becoming out of order because he requests an expression of opinion by a minister.

[English]

HOUSING

PROVISION FOR N.H.A. MORTGAGES FOR MIDDLE INCOME GROUP

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the very sharp increase announced last night in N.H.A. mortgage interest rates will make it impossible for individuals earning less than \$8,000 per year to apply for N.H.A. mortgages, is the government considering some plan which will enable those earning less than this to apply for N.H.A. mortgages?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we will be discussing this in a few minutes. Perhaps my hon. friend will hold his question until after the statement of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary question. Has the Prime Minister not made up his mind, like everyone else in this house, that statements we wait for from the Minister of Labour are really meaningless, and that it is only reasonable that the Prime Minister should make an explanation?

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ARDA—ACTION ON REPORT RESPECTING NORTHERN NOVA SCOTIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, before the house took recess the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development advised that the government intended to hold meetings with the ARDA task force on its report in respect of the nine northern counties of Nova Scotia. I am wondering if he can now advise the house whether the government has reached a decision.

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker,