

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I now rise on a question of privilege, which is this. On numerous occasions a question, such as the one now directed to the minister who made the original statement, has been ruled out of order because it did not come within the responsibility of the minister concerned. I have been told that I am permitted to ask questions only of the minister responsible. We have had in this house today an example of a question being put to the minister in charge of the Post Office Department and being answered by the Minister of National Revenue.

I may have a good understanding, Mr. Speaker, as to why the Postmaster General does not answer questions: He is not capable. But if one minister is going to be allowed to answer for another ministers' responsibility, I demand from the Minister of National Health and Welfare a commitment to carry out the promise he made, a promise which was backed up by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Finance and others. As far as I am concerned the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who originated this statement, is the minister responsible to the miners of Cape Breton, and I ask him to carry out his promise.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think we should have a debate on this. The Chair has ruled on the point of order. The hon. member for Cape Breton South has made an argument which he has made before, one which I appreciate, but unfortunately for him and for other members who may be placed in the same position as he is, there are precedents which support the ruling that I have made.

I do not think we can embark upon a long discussion of this point, particularly in view of the fact that we have a bare half hour to consider questions today and we are running short of time at this point.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I will direct to the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister consider removing the Postmaster General's portfolio and allow the Minister of National Revenue to carry it on for him?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

IMMIGRATION**CONDITIONS SURROUNDING ENTRY TO CANADA OF MEXICAN MENNONITES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower

[Mr. Speaker.]

and Immigration. Is the minister now in a position to tell the house the result of the investigation made by his department into the entry of Mexican Mennonite workers into Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will reply to this question tomorrow. I think I have a report on the matter but I will mention it to the house tomorrow.

BROADCASTING**AFFECT OF OWNERSHIP STANDARDS ON DECISION OF TAKE-OVER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In connection with the application by radio station CHUM to take over radio station CFRA, will the minister check, if she has not already done so, the multiplicity of ownership standards which in to the house tomorrow.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Board of Broadcast Governors has already made a declaration with respect to this matter. As the hon. member knows, the B.B.G., unfettered, makes its decision following the hearing of an application.

[Later:]

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): While I am not certain about the terms of the minister's reply, because it was complicated by answers to other questions, may I ask whether the hon. lady would satisfy herself in connection with this decision, and if this multiplicity of ownership standard was well considered, and also the promises that were made to CFRA employees at the time.

Miss LaMarsh: I have no indication at all that the Board of Broadcast Governors does not take into consideration everything which it is appropriate to consider.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Will the minister check into it?

Miss LaMarsh: I do not think it is my responsibility to check with the board and ask them if they have done their job. If the hon. member has evidence that they have not, I will undertake to look into it. But I think it is improper to ask the board in a general way whether they have performed their functions properly.