

Inquiries of the Ministry

Death" program, will the parliamentary secretary ascertain and report to the house on what action was taken internally by the C.B.C. management following the report of the royal commission appointed by the Ontario government?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recall that the C.B.C. president appeared before the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts and was questioned on this subject. He will be appearing again when the estimates of the C.B.C. are once more under consideration by the committee, and I am sure he will be glad to answer any such question at that time.

Mr. Dinsdale: A further supplementary question. In view of the hearing that is currently being held, would the parliamentary secretary not agree that it would be advisable to report directly to the house?

Mr. Speaker: Order; that is argument.

COMBINES**MERGERS, TAKE-OVERS AND CONGLOMERATES
IN ONTARIO**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who has just come out from behind the curtains, where I am sure he went because he was feeling a little neglected.

Is the minister aware of any action being taken by the government of Ontario to look into the question of company mergers and take-overs in the province? If so, what action does the minister propose to take under the Combines Investigation Act, which clearly has jurisdiction over this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am not sure that this is a question of urgency; I think it is the type of question that could be placed on the order paper.

Mr. McGrath: Then may I rephrase my question, with respect, Mr. Speaker. Reports emanating from Toronto this morning indicate that the government of Ontario has asked its Securities Commission to look into this subject. Has the minister been advised of this, because clearly it is a matter that is under the jurisdiction of the Combines Investigation Act? If so, what action is the minister contemplating?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have

not been advised that the Ontario government has asked the Ontario Securities Commission to look into the question of conglomerates, but I would think they are perfectly entitled to do so, as the matter does affect securities administration. I would welcome a study because this is a matter of great public interest, and the more study the subject receives, the better. I would remind the house that the question of competition policy is before the Economic Council for report, and I expect to receive it in due course. I would think that the Council itself would take a look at this question.

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE**INVITATION TO HOLD NEXT MEETINGS IN
CANADA**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he advise the house whether or not Canada has invited the Commonwealth Prime Ministers to hold their meeting in Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no necessity for making a decision at the present time.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question. I asked this question one month ago, on February 19, and at that time the minister gave the same answer. Surely a decision must be made—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the question should be placed on the order paper; in that way the hon. member may have better success.

RESEARCH**AUSTERITY MEASURES IN ANIMALS PROGRAM**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the statement that appeared in a leading newspaper to the effect that Canada's reputation in animal research, and even the health of scientists engaged in that field, has been put in jeopardy by the government's austerity measures, would the minister of health and welfare state what measures are now being taken to correct this terrible situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that he is inviting the minister to give the kind of information which in my view should be given by way of a statement on motions.