

Inquiries of the Ministry
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
 PROVISION OF OVERTIME PAY

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It is the hardy perennial regarding overtime pay for members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Is the answer yes, is it no, or it it still maybe?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): This is still under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

[*English*]
CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

DISPUTE WITH NABET—ROLE OF MINISTER—POSSIBLE
 GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR SETTLEMENT—COST TO
 TAXPAYERS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. I wish to ask the minister whether, during the labour difficulties involving NABET and the CBC, he has had any communication or consultation with the president of the CBC or his top officials pertaining to the strike and, in particular, whether he had anything to do with arranging the meeting that is to take place tomorrow, and whether the CBC is working within federal guidelines for the settlement of that dispute?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I indicated on a number of occasions in the House that the initiative and responsibility for the negotiations between the CBC management and the union involved rest with management. As to the so-called summit meeting that will take place tomorrow, I should like to be able to take credit for it, but I must leave that credit to the management of the CBC, which initiated the meeting.

[*English*]

Mr. Nowlan: I am glad that credit is going where credit is due. Be that as it may, will the minister consult with the president of the CBC after the meeting and, hopefully, come into the House on Wednesday, or whenever he will be here next, and report on the status of this continuing stalemate and, in particular, give details of what the cost has been to date to the Canadian taxpayer as a result of this continuing labour dispute?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, the other day I answered a question on this subject. In fact, I indicated that the CBC was actively seeking to evaluate the cost of the difficulties that have been going on for two months there and that these figures will be made public as soon as they will be available.

[Mr. Olson.]

[*English*]

DISPUTE WITH NABET—POSSIBLE LOSS OF AUDIENCES

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State. Is the minister aware whether or not the CBC, in estimating the possible cost of this labour dispute, is considering the possible loss of audiences by CBC stations all across the country when they were just beginning to bring people back?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this is another question, I think. I do want to consider it but as first formulated it dealt only with the financial cost.

* * *

• (1500)

[*English*]

FINANCE

PORTION OF EXCHANGE FUND HELD IN
 NON-TRANSFERABLE UNITED STATES SECURITIES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As part of the price in 1968 Canada had to agree that a portion of its holdings of United States dollars in the foreign exchange fund would be in non-transferable or non-negotiable U.S. securities. Now that the foreign exchange holdings have reached a figure of well over \$5 billion, would the minister advise what portion of that fund is held in non-transferable U.S. securities and give his estimate as to the position in which this puts the fund?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have serious doubts about the question. It appears to me in any event that the question is rather technical. The hon. member is asking for very detailed information which ought normally to be sought by way of question on the order paper. Of course, the hon. member and the Minister of Finance know many things that the Speaker does not know. Maybe this is the kind of information that is at the fingertip of both the minister and the hon. member for Edmonton West. If so, I will withdraw my objection.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): All joking aside, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the difficulties that faces the Canadian nation with regard to the present piling up of United States dollars. I am asking the minister a question that should have been apparent to him right away, unless he is not doing his job.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member's additional comment tends to indicate that I was correct in my estimation.