

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and myself have held meetings with the Quebec Minister of Communications; the latter came here once and in answer to his invitation we went to Quebec two or three times.

[English]

QUEBEC CABLEVISION LEGISLATION—ALLEGED  
INTENTION OF QUEBEC TO ISSUE LICENCES

**Mr. J.P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** A supplementary question. In view of that rather equivocal answer and the fact that the minister may or may not have answered the question directly, I ask the minister if he is aware of the provisions of bill 35 in the province of Quebec and, more particularly, has he been personally advised by the communications minister that the province of Quebec intends to legislate or regulate the issuance of licences for cablevision provincially and ignore the CRTC?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, provisions in Bill 35 or in the Quebec green paper are self-explanatory. As to what the Quebec minister of Communications has told me in this regard, it concerned meetings about which we had, by common agreement, decided to make no public statement.

• (4:20 p.m.)

QUEBEC CABLEVISION LEGISLATION—STATUS OF  
NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the hon. Secretary of State.

As the Minister responsible for Communications in Quebec has given the outline of his bill, can the hon. Secretary of State tell us whether negotiations between Quebec and Ottawa have been completed and if so, when he is to make a statement in order that Quebec may legislate seriously in this matter?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe Quebec has been inhibited in legislating, or has been concerned with our negotiations or the stand of the federal government. I can make no statement at all as to what action the government of Quebec will take. In my opinion, I must say, negotiations and exchanges have not been completed.

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[English]

SCIENCE

POSSIBLE CREATION OF ORGANIZATION TO FORMULATE  
POLICY AS SUGGESTED BY OECD

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Is the government considering creating an organization to formulate policy on general scientific and technological information as suggested by a report from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** I am sorry, but I did not fully under-

[Mr. Pelletier.]

stand the question. Perhaps the hon. member would put it again. There was noise on the other side of the House.

**Mr. Ritchie:** Is the government considering creating an organization to formulate policy on general scientific and technological information, as suggested by a report from the O.E.C.D.?

**Mr. Gillespie:** I do not know whether the hon. member is referring to an old report of the O.E.C.D. which suggested the formation of a ministry of state for science and technology.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. WOOLLIAMS—REFERENCE TO STATEMENT BY  
PRESIDENT OF PRIVY COUNCIL

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** With reference to a question of privilege I raised earlier today, Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs met at 3.30 and I see we have just finished the question period. Since I raised this question, I should like to read a short excerpt from *Hansard* for September 14, 1971. I put the following question to the leader of the House:

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the government House leader in reference to the business of the House during the Income Tax debate? Has he given serious consideration to seeing that none of the standing committees of the House sit during the tax debate because of the difficulty and complexity of the bill that is under consideration and which will be considered further in the Committee of the Whole House?

The answer by the leader of the House was as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to ensure that while the Committee of the Whole is sitting and discussing the tax bill no meetings will be scheduled for standing or special committees. That is the general policy that I hope will be followed. There may have to be an emergency committee meeting, but that is not planned. I hope that committees will meet in the mornings and that we will have the rest of the day for the bill.

In no way has any emergency arisen with regard to Bill S-9 or the other business before several committees. The minister cannot get out of his difficulty by way of that loophole. Knowing the leader of the House, I believe he will be the first to stand up and say he gave the undertaking which has been quoted. What has happened may not have been his fault, but the way in which these committee meetings have been scheduled has imposed heavy burdens on those who are trying both to attend committees and take part in the debate on the tax bill, particularly now that the guillotine, or call it what you will, has fallen and the hon. gentleman is ending the debate. So much for the undertaking given on September 14.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** I thank the hon. member for reading that statement. I think I have carried out that undertaking. It has only been in the case of the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee,—

**Mr. Horner:** And the Justice Committee which is meeting right now.

**An hon. Member:** And other committees, too.