

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

In a few moments, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Skeena.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): With respect to the committee to which the minister referred, are there any plans for that committee to meet immediately to go into this question?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether an immediate meeting is scheduled between the parties concerned, but since the Quebec government announced this decision only a few days ago, I have not had time to contact the members of the committee. I shall, however, ask the government to place this item on the orders of the day.

* * *

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

TIME ALLOTTED TO CONVENTIONS OF PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS AND RALLIEMENT CRÉDITISTE

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Secretary of State, but I believe that I should perhaps rather make this a question of privilege.

On March 25, I had question No. 1,219 put on the order paper. It reads in part as follows:

1. How much time did CBC allocate to the provincial conventions of (a) Parti Québécois in February 1971 (b) the Ralliement créditiste—Quebec in March 1971,—

Now, I have just received the answer which prompts me to ask the Secretary of State the following question:

To Quebec separatists, the CBC granted five hours and five minutes of television and radio time compared with only 40 minutes of radio time to the Créditistes, and I would like to know whether the minister is willing to tell or request the CBC to give the various Canadian political parties at least as much consideration as the Canadian separatists?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the latter part of the question is obvious. It is "yes". The answer to the first part of the member's question is that the CBC only gave facts without any sort of expounding and I believe it is my duty, as spokesman for the Corporation in the House, to ask first what is the explanation for the disproportion noticed by the hon. member, disproportion with which I myself was struck, when I let him have the answer.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): I should like to put a supplementary question to the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker.

Since he considers himself the spokesman for the CBC in the House, could he not take the same opportunity to inquire how come there were 27 technicians at the convention of the Parti Québécois, and only one at that of the Ralliement créditiste?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): I should like to put a supplementary question to the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask the minister responsible for the CBC whether the broadcast time allotted by the CBC on the occasion of a convention, is primarily based on the importance of each political party?

* * *

[English]

AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—FEDERAL POSITION IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE SUPREME COURT RESPECTING VALIDITY OF PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether the government has yet come around to making up its mind as to the position it will take in the forthcoming reference in a few days before the Supreme Court of Canada involving provincial regulations which improperly restrict the free interprovincial flow of agricultural commodities? Will the government, as the guardian of the constitution for all Canadians, reassure them that it will clearly and unequivocally oppose such regulations?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the federal government will be represented by way of intervention in that case, as I told the House last week, and I can assure my hon. friend that the constitution will be well represented by counsel.

Mr. Baldwin: Since the current crisis has come about because of the government's failure to act courageously, will it not state what it intends to do?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Egmont.

* * *

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED—METHOD OF ANNOUNCING ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. Earlier a number of questions were directed to the minister with regard to the adequacy of funds for the Opportunities for Youth program. Can the minister report whether more funds will be made available in light of the very large number of submissions and indicate the amount of funds needed in order to make possible the acceptance of at least some greater number of the submissions that have been placed before the government?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, in a very short while, Mr. Speaker.