

Inquiries of the Ministry

● (2:50 p.m.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON LAST SESSION'S ORDER PAPER**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the answer given by the minister of external affairs to a question asked last week in the other session of parliament, whether the Prime Minister will now arrange to have answers given to the 127 written questions which remained unanswered at the end of that session.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that according to the rules they should be put on the order paper; then they will be answered.

AGRICULTURE**QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I intended to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but as he seems to intend to be just about as assiduous during the new session as he was during the last, I will therefore, in his absence, address myself to the Prime Minister.

Considering that maple sugar producers had a poor crop last year in eastern Canada but did not get any subsidy from the federal government and considering that the situation does not seem to be better this year, does the Prime Minister intend to take immediate steps to help the farmers concerned as soon as necessary if present conditions do not improve?

[*Text*]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will be glad to look into this matter, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**SUGGESTED PROVISION OF FUNDS ON TEN YEAR BASIS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Is it the intention of the C.B.C. to send their employees into the constituencies

of members who disagree with the views of the president of this corporation over the financial arrangements inherent in the proposed ten year charter, as has occurred in my constituency?

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Coates: A supplementary question. I wonder whether the Secretary of State might also indicate what are the intentions of the government toward the proposal made by the chairman of the board of broadcast governors as to giving the C.B.C. specific directions as to its duties, especially in so far as finances are concerned.

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, the intention of the government is to present amendments to the Broadcasting Act during this session, as was announced yesterday.

TRANSPORT**CONSIDERATION OF REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Is it the intention of the government to enable the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines to receive further representations regarding rail line abandonment before the government proceeds with the proposed railway legislation?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I would think, sir, that it would be rather difficult to take that course before the bill was introduced, but I would be quite prepared to receive any representations myself, or to arrange to have them received by my department.

FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO NEW CANADA-U.K. TAX AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria, B.C.): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance which is of considerable importance to a large number of people in my riding and across the country.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Groos: It is urgent because, as I understand it, the present arrangements concerned come to an end today. Can the Minister of