

Supply—C.B.C.

secretary does not seem to agree with that, but I think if he looks at the rules he will find that is the requirement. The government having taken the position it was a government document, and the minister having relied upon it, he is obliged to produce the report. I believe the rules are quite clear on that point.

In any event, I am not pressing the minister to table it now. I am pointing out to him the impropriety of taking shelter behind the document or leaving an inference as to the contents of that report, and then not producing it. This is the point I wanted to leave with him. If he does that, it is not open to him to say the matter of the production of the report is closed because by his own action he opens the whole matter and is required to produce it. I think it is quite important that the position of the government vis-à-vis the civil service commission in these matters be kept quite clear. I think he would be the first one to agree, having the responsibility he has for administering legislation of the parliament of Canada with his large staff, that the independence of the commission should be guaranteed and that nothing be done to impair or jeopardize its position in these matters.

Item agreed to.

## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

41. Grant in respect of the net operating requirements of the radio and television services, \$62,085,000.

**Mr. Fisher:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to say to the minister that we have not got the annual report of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the past year. We have the board of broadcast governors coming up perhaps this evening and again we have not got the report. These would be very important to us in our consideration of the estimates since they will be the first reports since the passing of the provisions of the Broadcasting Act. According to the Broadcasting Act both the board of broadcast governors and the corporation are required to file within three months of the end of their financial year their annual reports with the minister and he has to lay them before parliament within 15 days, which takes us to July 15. The minister must have in his hands the reports of these two agencies and I wonder whether it would be possible for us to have them tonight or before his estimates come up next time. It would make our criticism and judgment of the activities, especially of the board of broadcast governors, much more sensible and I ask the minister where these reports stand at the present time.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Mr. Chairman, on this item I think the committee would be entitled to know what is the position of all these applications which have been made for private stations. I think the committee is entitled to a report from the minister on the result of the new policy. I am speaking generally now but I think the minister will know what I mean.

It is true that the committee has been set up and there will be a possibility to discuss many of these things and it may not be necessary to go into great detail at this time, but I think we are entitled to get a statement from the minister about the applications which have been recommended. My understanding is that applications are made to the Minister of Transport for technical clearance and from there they go to the board. The board then holds public hearings and after having heard the evidence makes a recommendation to the Minister of Transport.

**Mr. Nowlan:** I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, as he knows, but I thought we were dealing exclusively with the C.B.C. Is not the matter to which the hon. member refers a matter for the B.B.G. and the application of that act rather than the C.B.C.? I would be very glad to discuss the matter with him, but frankly I prefer to have the officers of the B.B.G. in front of me, because as he knows under the act the B.B.G. has to deal with all the applications for licences.

**Mr. Chevrier:** I apologize to the minister. I was outside and when I came in I understood we were on item No. 40. I will reserve my remarks for a later occasion.

**The Chairman:** Item 40 will be called after the items dealing with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I called item No. 41.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary South):** Mr. Chairman, may I deal with an item in relation to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

**The Chairman:** Yes, but I was going to recognize the hon. member for Madeleine islands.

**Mr. Keays:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

(Translation):

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my constituents of the Iles-de-la-Madeleine, may I ask that facilities for French language television broadcasts be provided in that area of the country, which is so isolated from the mainland.

At the moment, reception is quite poor, because coming as it does from station CHAU-TV., at Carleton, 180 miles away, reception is equal only to about 5 per cent of the station's power.