

Interim Supply

ness. Many members have suggested that the government should appoint a special committee to look into all aspects of the operations of the C.B.C. I support these suggestions and urge the government to appoint such a committee at an early date.

It has been pointed out that the C.B.C. was originally established by the government headed by the late Right Hon. R. B. Bennett. The C.B.C. is at present under severe criticism and there are some signs that there may have been government interference. Examples of this are found in the incident when the Minister of Transport seemed to force his way into appearing on television last summer and also in the handling of the so-called "Mr. Pearson" film. These things have left doubts in the minds of Canadians about the independence of the C.B.C. and are further reasons why a special committee on broadcasting should be set up. The hon. member for Cartier also raised the question of the legality of producing a certain program, and this too should be clarified.

I believe that the record of the C.B.C. over the years is good. However, I wish to point out that in my opinion the C.B.C., with its radio and television networks, is the most powerful instrument in Canada and if it is misused it can be used to make or break individuals. I trust that the management of the corporation will at all times be free from political interference and will live up to the aims and objectives originally laid down.

The hon. member for Churchill spoke about the need for an extension of service. He referred to the need for the extension of both radio and television services to cover the northland. I also wish to say a few words about the need for extension of service. I represent a riding which is in the centre of Manitoba and right in the heart of Canada. Many people in the area I represent either have no television reception or receive it on a hit or miss basis.

Over the years I have received many petitions and letters requesting improved television service for the people of the interlake area. I have pleaded with C.B.C. officials to take action to provide this service. I believe that one of the aims and objectives of the C.B.C. is to make radio and television service available to all Canadians. I must confess I am disappointed that a greater effort has not been made in this regard. The hon. member for Churchill pointed out that in 1961, after the committee on broadcasting had met, we were led to believe that within three years 98 per cent of the population of

[Mr. Stefanson.]

Canada would have these services available. However, on reading the annual report of the C.B.C. for 1964-65 it would now appear that it may take 10 years to provide these services. This is not fair to the people concerned. The hon. member for Churchill made out a strong case for the people he represents and pointed out that at least 50 per cent of these people have no television service whatsoever while the other 50 per cent only have canned television.

Since I became a member of the house in 1958 I have made representations to the various ministers to whom the C.B.C. has reported and to officials of the C.B.C. about the situation with regard to television reception in the interlake area. I want to review very briefly the history of the C.B.C. television station in Winnipeg. CBWT, Winnipeg, began operations in May, 1954, on channel 4 with an antenna height of 192 feet. A height limitation was imposed because of the proximity of the tower, which was right on Portage avenue, to the Winnipeg airport. At the time channel 4 was assigned to Winnipeg by the Department of Transport it was the best channel available with maximum fringe area coverage.

The Chairman: Order. It being five o'clock, in order to permit the house to consider private members' business it is my duty to leave the chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions (papers), private bills, public bills.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**FEDERAL EXPENDITURES BY PROVINCES**

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe) moved:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of the report prepared by officials of the Department of Finance concerning federal expenditures in each of the provinces of Canada.

He said:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, at this time, we are discussing, or rather asking for the tabling of papers by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon). Unfortunately I notice that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) is not in his seat nor is his parliamentary secretary.

Yet, we are dealing with the tabling of papers concerning them and I am surprised that neither of them is here, especially as