

this matter. I know that they heard many witnesses during the hearings, that they did a lot of work, and I take this opportunity to congratulate them.

Again I would like to insist on the extension of this network. I have been given to understand that, possibly in the very near future, the minister might have the occasion to visit the area; at that time, she will be able to see for herself how vast it is and the urgent need for a television network serving those isolated communities.

I do not intend to dwell at length on this point, since we shall have the opportunity, I am sure, to take up this discussion again.

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I want first of all to congratulate the hon. member for Saguenay (Mr. Blouin) for having succeeded in getting the extension of the network to his area, and this should be of service to his constituents. As a matter of fact, I am tempted to ask him to intercede with the minister on my behalf, in order to get a similar extension on the north shore of the Charlevoix constituency up to Tadoussac, because I have been making representations to the C.B.C. for several months and asking to correct what I call an unfair treatment not only for some areas of the province of Quebec, but for other areas also, such as my own constituency.

In some municipalities the citizens have to pay a fee as high as \$100 to get the public TV broadcasts.

Mr. Blouin: Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to my hon. friend?

Has he ever asked the minister to support his requests?

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): I do not have to apply to the minister, because the hon. member knows quite well that the minister can only act as the spokesman of the C.B.C. in the house and that she cannot take part in the decisions of the C.B.C.

I find it strange that hon. members are trying to make us believe today that the minister can take a decision for the C.B.C.

If one understands the spirit of the act—

[*English*]

Miss LaMarsh: Would the hon. member permit me to ask him a question? Before concluding that part of his speech I wonder whether he would like to have a discussion with an hon. member on his side of the house, the hon. member for Churchill (Mr.

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Simpson), on whether or not on certain occasions it is possible to ask the C.B.C. to use new means to reach outlying districts? Obviously the minister cannot and would not intrude on strictly political lines but in some instances it has been possible for the minister to persuade the C.B.C. to be somewhat more flexible in its attitude in regard to engineering and thus getting service to people. I think my hon. friend will find that his colleague from Churchill has no criticism of the government in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I did not know the hon. minister had so much influence over the C.B.C. If such is the case, I want to ask her right now to approach the authorities of the C.B.C. and ask them to extend the TV network to the riding of Charlevoix and the surrounding areas.

Of course, the minister may leave her post in the near future and may therefore not have the pleasure of doing me that good turn, but in case she should stay in office as minister responsible or spokesman for the C.B.C. to the house, I ask her—I hope she is making notes—to ask the officials of the C.B.C. to look into the matter seriously as concerns the riding of Charlevoix with a view to doing away with what I called discrimination a while ago.

The people back home pay their taxes just like people do in Toronto, in Montreal and in Vancouver. Those people are entitled to benefit from the services of public broadcasting.

When the C.B.C. undertook, as it were, to set up a colour television system, I stated that there were other priorities and before spending so much money to develop colour television in Canada, it would have been advisable in the first place to serve remote centres, in order to enable all taxpayers to benefit from that broadcasting service.

Mr. Speaker, may I say that it is six o'clock?

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at ten o'clock this day are as follows: The hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Mather),