

**Mr. Pelletier:** Yes. And also the ownership and distribution aspects of the ownership.

**Mr. Fortier:** Would it be permissible for me to ask this question: is your department doing this study in cooperation with your colleague, Mr. Basford?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Yes. and with Communications as well.

**Mr. Fortier:** With Mr. Kierans?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Yes. I must tell you nevertheless that in spite of the time that has been devoted, the study is pretty far from being completed, precisely because of this complexity of all media, and that we have not yet been able to submit a document to Cabinet, but it should not be delayed much more now.

**Mr. Fortier:** And the results of this study, Mr. Minister, will it be directed to the CRTC's attention?

**Mr. Pelletier:** That is why the study is made, yes.

**Mr. Fortier:** Since it is in progress, I do not wish to go further, even though I would like to. You spoke of Mr. Kierans, a while ago, in answer to a question from the Chairman. I cannot resist the temptation to put this question: are you satisfied that it is the Secretary of State of Canada who must have responsibility to Parliament for the Broadcasting Act, or should it not be rather the Minister of Communications? What is more important, the medium or the message?

**Mr. Pelletier:** First, I don't think the Secretary of State has the responsibility for the medium. I think it's invested in the CRTC. That was discussed at length before the Parliamentary Committee. We even brought over some BBC officials from London when the White Paper was being studied. There were very lengthy and interesting discussions about it—for example about the role in England of the Postmaster General, who has wide responsibilities, whereas the Secretary of State as a Minister, a member of the government, doesn't have any, except to formulate the directives I told you about a while back, for the Cabinet's use, and to serve as a telephone line between Parliament and the CRTC and the CBC.

The Parliamentary Committee was quite aware of having invested those powers in the CRTC, because we learned (and for me it's something new, because I always thought that

there was no such thing at the BBC) at those hearings that the Postmaster General in England can call up the Director of the BBC and say: "I don't want to see that programme on the screen any more". He doesn't often do that, we were told, but he does have that power. Here, we were told generally, both in the Committee and in Parliament, that it was dangerous to leave such powers in the hands of a Minister.

So I would say the medium is in the hands of the CRTC; and I think that the reason the Secretary of State is invested with whatever functions are left in that area is that there is a very important co-ordination role. For example, if for its part each of the institutions like the CBC, the National Film Board or the Film Development Corporation—let's imagine and absurd case—or that all three, without telling us about it, start to make films about the same subject; you're going to have wasted efforts. The CBC isn't there just to provide information. The CBC is at the National Arts Centre. There's a coordination of roles that can not only result in plenty of savings but can also link the agencies closer together, and can help them support one another. That is, in films, the National Film Board may have things to teach the CBC in the area of feature films and the knowledge that has now accumulated at the Canadian Film Development Corporation may be useful for such purchases at the CBC. etc. There is interdependence and all those institutions should live in symbiosis. I'm addressing that word to Mr. Lynch in particular.

**Mr. Fortier:** I've read the article in question. Was it you who wrote the Prime Minister's speech?

**Mr. Pelletier:** No.

**Mr. Fortier:** Some proposals (and I stress the word proposals) of the CRTC would have the effect of preventing some Canadians from having access to the airwaves that most Canadians have access to. Does that trouble you as a Minister?

**Mr. Pelletier:** I'm concerned about it, but I'm also troubled by the conviction that I acquired, when I studied the question and the testimony given before the CRTC, that unless the use of microwave is regulated, the whole broadcasting system in Canada could disappear within five years. Besides, if you look at the domestic legislation in the United States, it is extremely restrictive. It's as restrictive as any of the CRTC's decisions. I think that's part of the Canadian dilemma. It's the Canadian dilemma