

*Supply—Secretary of State*

**Mr. Caouette:** Not the regional director, the general director.

**Mr. Valade:**—the general director of the French network deems it necessary to make such a criticism known to the public, it is because, in my view, he seems unable to solve the problem. On account of the part he is made to play, of the little authority or the little protection he is given by the government, he felt, at a given time, the need to express publicly his uneasiness in the face of conditions he is unable to correct by himself.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I have been listening to my friend, the hon. member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade), who is usually very objective, but I would not want him to lead the house astray. Twice now I have heard him say that the vice-president wanted to discuss publicly a matter of internal administration, when everyone knows that those were confidential instructions sent within the C.B.C. administration. It was through the indiscretion of some journalists that they were made public. The vice-president did not publish them.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Chairman, I do not feel that the point of order raised by the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) is justified.

If those instructions leaked out or were published in the papers because of an indiscretion, I am willing to take the word of the hon. member for Trois-Rivières for it.

On the other hand, with regard to Mr. Ouimet's statement, one may wonder whether there really was a leak or whether, in certain quarters, someone did not want those instructions to appear in the newspapers.

In any case, whatever the technique that was used, one cannot deny that there is very deep unrest within that corporation, specially when a person in authority such as Mr. Ouimet, feels unable to solve as difficult a problem as that one. I think that, in a case like this it is the duty of parliament or of this government to step into the picture. After the violent accusations the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) launched against the corporation, I wonder what we are waiting for to show that we are not afraid of a corporation which is in some way the child of the government, that we do not hesitate to protect the interests of the public which must pay the cost of the corporation, to set up the machinery of an inquiry?

• (9:30 p.m.)

Let us convene the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts, let us conduct an inquiry, in camera if necessary, but, if we have some respect for those who have elected us, I do not think we should allow all kinds of doubts or implications to subsist. If there is any basis to them, the situation should be corrected. Otherwise, those who cast doubts within the C.B.C. should be blamed.

I do not want, Mr. Chairman, to dwell further on that point. I will probably have the opportunity to bring it up again, but I would like now to refer to an extremely important thing for the city of Montreal.

Several years ago, that is in 1958, 1959 and 1960, the C.B.C. began negotiations with the Montreal authorities for the construction of a complex for the technical facilities, the studios, cameras, indeed for all that is required for the new television technique.

The former government had committed itself, with the city of Montreal and Central Housing and Mortgage Corporation to build in the eastern part of the metropolis what was known as the "Cite des Ondes".

As we know, this project was to have been started on October 1st, 1965. But of course, after election day, it was put off until October 1st, 1966. The present Secretary of State, and the one before her, who is now in the other place, had, at a number of public meetings, promised the Montreal taxpayers that no delay would be tolerated on this project.

However even though it is of vital importance to the metropolis of Canada, it has been continuously put off. At that time we believed the minister when she said, that this "Cité des Ondes" project was being put off until the end of Expo '67, in view of the considerable amount of works that would accrue to Montreal because of Expo.

Expo is over now; business is extraordinarily slack in the city of Montreal, where you find more than 8 per cent of the unemployed of Quebec. All merchants, businessmen, citizens and workers, who are interested in knowing the government's intentions as regards this project, are still waiting for the implementation of this election promise by a minister, by a government which have given no indication yet of their intentions concerning the execution of that project.

Some people say it will be worth \$70 million. Perhaps the population will be told that