

Supply—Secretary of State

However, I should like to draw to the attention of my hon. friends, who I know are anxious to see the estimates of this department and the other two remaining departments pass quickly, that I am sincerely in accord with as rapid as possible extension of service. I know the management and board of the C.B.C. are of the same opinion. Although I cannot say it will be by the time the next set of estimates is before the house, it may very well be that within this calendar year we will be in a position to say when this policy of extension of facilities will be undertaken.

● (4:00 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, last night, when the house adjourned, I was endeavouring to find out from the minister if the present government intends to postpone the date agreed upon for the construction of the C.B.C.'s Place des Ondes.

The minister did not give a satisfactory reply to that question.

Although I voted for the adjournment, I wish to say I did not intend to join the members of the N.D.P. in an attempt to delay the adoption of the department's estimates. I merely wanted to find out from the Secretary of State, whether she intends to make an early statement on this project of considerable importance to the city of Montreal.

On September 17, 1965, her predecessor made a statement in Montreal to the effect that this government had allowed an extension of one year, starting on October 1, 1965, for the carrying out of this project which is most important for the city of Montreal and particularly for that part of the city.

Yesterday, during the debate, the minister stated just the opposite, as can be found on page 2419 of *Hansard*:

But I do think it would be foolhardy for me at this point, while the Fowler report is being studied by the committee, to attempt to give hon. members here, or persons in the general public, a date upon which construction will be started or completed.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest that answer is in disagreement with everything suggested by the former Secretary of State, that is that the work would start on October 1, 1966.

The purpose of this intervention—I would like the minister to help me shorten the time allocated to me to discuss this matter—is to ask the minister to tell us that she will be ready to make a statement in the house of commons within a week, 15 days or three

weeks concerning a final date for the start of the construction. I feel that would remove the prevailing anxiety and uncertainty from the people who live in the eastern part of the Canadian metropolis. Surely, the minister is aware that this situation seriously affects businessmen in that part of the city of Montreal.

This indecision on the part of the Secretary of State is detrimental to the implementation and execution of this extensive project. I feel the minister should study the merits and the objectivity of my request. I do not know why she persists in her refusal to tell us whether the project will be started as promised by her predecessor, or whether she intends to make a statement in the house within a few weeks so as to inform the public and Montreal authorities, who have asked for information, when this Place des Ondes project will start.

It seems to me that my question is not difficult, it is simple, perhaps too simple for the minister. She must admit that an answer would surely avoid anxiety and especially complications for businessmen of the eastern part of Montreal.

So, I ask the minister to confirm or deny the statement made by her predecessor, the former Secretary of State, in Montreal before the city authorities, when he said that a period of one year would be granted for the start of construction work, which then was to have started on October 1, 1965.

I ask the minister whether this statement was only a political football in the midst of an election campaign or whether it was a formal and official commitment on the part of the present government.

It seems to me that my request is logical and reasonable. I ask the minister to inform us on this point. I know that the problem concerns not only the voters of my riding but those of every riding in the City of Montreal who hope for the early implementation of this major project.

Therefore, I ask whether the minister is ready to give her answer to the effect that the project will be implemented without further delay, or undertake to make a statement in the house on this matter within a few weeks.

[*English*]

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had explained this to my hon. friend last night. Let me first say that I did not, initially, pay the honours due my predecessor last night, for the very reason that I thought this