

Supply—Secretary of State

My riding is made up of French Canadians, in a proportion of 97 per cent, while almost 80 per cent of the programs are American, not French. American stations run the show in my riding.

So we speak about French. The riding I represent is a French riding and we cannot even get French radio.

So I ask the C.B.C., and the minister to consider the requests I have made, for the riding I represent, for the Chamber of Commerce by which I am asked to make representations, for the Owners' League, in short for all public bodies of the city and the riding I represent.

We want an improvement in broadcasting. I don't believe the improvement we seek will cost too much to the government. To my mind, it would involve an increase in power of the C.B.C. station or the small C.B.C. relay station in Mégantic, so that it will be strong enough.

It would also involve permission for the private stations to maintain their power high enough to enable us to tune in French stations after ten o'clock at night.

The government, I do not know why, orders private radio stations to reduce their power by half, maybe more. I am not too sure about the percentage. At any rate, we have no French radio programs from five or six o'clock in the evening until eight o'clock the next morning.

I ask the minister to take this request into consideration. I am sure that the municipal and county authorities will make other representations because, for some time, they have been putting a lot of pressure on me to ask the minister and the government to do something in that connection.

That is why I took the opportunity to take part in this debate tonight. Once again, I ask the minister to examine the situation and have an inquiry made in that area, in order to give justice to my constituents.

• (10:00 p.m.)

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, a while ago, the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Goyer) raised a very important question for the Canadian metropolis. Unfortunately, the minister did not refer or reply to the comments of his colleague, but I would certainly speak very briefly if the minister would assure us that the proposed C.B.C. complex which the previous government promised to carry out as early as October 1, 1965, and which was

[Mr. Latulippe.]

delayed by his predecessor to October 1, 1966, will be carried out.

The minister undoubtedly knows that this is a very important project of a rather special nature, since it is one of the most extensive projects to be carried out in the Canadian metropolis and I refer to the C.B.C. complex.

If the minister can assure us to-night that there shall not be any other postponement after the final date of October 1, 1966, my remarks, Mr. Chairman, will be short. So, if the minister can give us an answer, inform the house, in a word, give us a definite answer and not a shifty one as has been given in the past, the house shall obtain a much more immediate co-operation from me.

Does the minister intend to reply to my question, Mr. Chairman? I shall take the liberty of renewing my request if I do not receive an answer to my inquiry.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I also wish to ask a question—

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, I directed a question to the minister and I would hope that she would at least be courteous enough to give us an answer. It is a simple clear and important question; it deals with a project of some \$35 million. According to my information, it is a revised project, and I would like the minister to assure us, tonight, in short to state that there will be no more delays concerning the execution of that project, the C.B.C. complex in Montreal. It is a matter of administrative responsibility, and I cannot understand how the minister can remain indifferent and refuse to answer this kind of question, unless we are to see in this another sign of indifference toward a metropolis which has sent to parliament 20 Liberal members out of 21 ridings. It would be an insult to the Canadian metropolis to refuse to answer this question and if the minister refuses to do so, I shall ask the support of the 18 other Liberal members from Montreal, who have common interests to defend; as the hon. member for Dollard (Mr. Goyer)—and I congratulate him for doing so,—I shall seek their support in order to have an answer in respect of that huge project.

I realize that the hon. Minister has to discuss common interests with her colleague, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer) and the new Postmaster General (Mr. Côté), but I think that the Secretary of State should show a little more interest for her