

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

management and over the kind of programming which is offered to the Canadian people?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Miss LaMarsh:** I assume the hon. member's question is not a rhetorical one. First, it is a matter of fact and of law that the corporation management does exercise some control, although I suppose it varies from time to time; certainly, I doubt whether top management is responsible for pre-screening everything which appears; I do not think anyone could reasonably expect that.

I believe parliament has a very strong moral control, exercised through the kind of reaction it shows on occasions such as this. I do not agree, however, with the hon. member for Kamloops, that individual members of parliament should have any say in the programming, any more than did a former minister of national revenue who was one of the hon. member's colleagues.

[Later:]

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

In view of the increasing number of complaints about the program "Sunday" broadcast last Sunday night, November 27, does the minister intend to refer those complaints to the special committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts and ask it to conduct an investigation?

Does the minister intend to refer the whole matter to that committee of the House of Commons?

[English]

**Miss LaMarsh:** Every complaint and every laudatory letter or communication which is received in my office goes forward to the C.B.C. I do not intend to refer the subject of this particular program to the committee, which is meeting now, and which can be seized of it if it wishes, since I believe the president of the corporation will be appearing before it tomorrow.

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** Questions concerning the C.B.C. have been raised in this house from time to time, but the degree of public outrage which has been shown with regard to this particular program—and I must say immediately that I have not seen it—is such that I believe the Canadian taxpayer need no longer pay for this sort of trash. Is the minister not contemplating some

further action, even though the director has been disposed of?

**An hon. Member:** What action?

**Mr. Fulton:** A debate in this house.

**Some hon. Members:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. We have had a number of questions on this subject and perhaps we might now move on to another subject.

**Mr. W. H. A. Thomas (Middlesex West):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps you will allow a supplementary question addressed to the Prime Minister. I think the people of Canada have a right to know whether or not the Prime Minister saw this show on Sunday evening—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West):** If he did, is he willing to condone the action of the C.B.C. in presenting it?

[Later:]

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Speaker, I did not realize the house was moving so rapidly from the question I asked earlier, and which I think is of extreme importance. I am referring to the subject which I raised earlier with the Secretary of State. I should like now to ask the hon. lady, in view of the importance of this matter, in view of the importance of the relationship between the government and the C.B.C. and parliament and the C.B.C., and with reference to the urgency of parliament expressing an opinion with regard to the kind of programming which goes on, if she will intercede with the Prime Minister and the government to arrange in the immediate future for a short debate—of perhaps two or three hours—on this whole issue?

**Miss LaMarsh:** As I have pointed out, tomorrow morning at 9.30 the president of the corporation is to appear before the committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts. It is my understanding of the rules of the house that one does not have formally to be a member of a committee to have something to say before it. It may be that some hon. members who are so enthusiastic about this matter may rise early and attend that meeting.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I should like to remind hon. members that we have only a few minutes left. I wonder whether they would allow other members to ask questions about other subjects?