

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONGO—INQUIRY AS TO SAFETY OF
CANADIANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the explosive situation that exists in the Congo I ask the minister are there any Canadians in the danger areas and, if so, what steps are being taken to protect them?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe that in the dangerous area, around the community of Kisangani, which is the old Stanleyville, there are in all about 20 Canadians. I believe that these, together with citizens of the United Kingdom and other countries, are not in immediate danger but steps have been taken for their security.

TELEVISION

TRANSFER OF CHANNEL FROM BARRIE TO
TORONTO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Will he assure the house that in any action to approve the application of channel 3 for its licence he will have cabinet approval?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I would be permitted to say that, if rumours are true, this may be the last day's attendance by the hon. gentleman in this chamber and he, apart from some of his partisan activities, is a very popular member of the house. I will not go so far as to say we wish him well in any new endeavours, but I know that from a personal standpoint, so far as his health, wealth and happiness are concerned, we would all wish him very well.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill: I may add that in connection with many of the arrangements that had to be made, when I had the honour to be the leader of the house when this government was first formed, I always found the hon. gentleman, although he pushed the interests of his party just as far as he possibly could, to be really co-operative, as a good whip should be.

Having said that, sir, I can assure the hon. gentleman that I will endeavour, as I always

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do, to comply with the law made by this parliament.

Mr. Winkler: Before directing a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the good wishes of my hon. friend, and I can assure him I could never depend on his support for what I have in mind for my future. I might add that I had a sensible, responsible farewell speech prepared, but in the light of what has occurred earlier today I wish to say I agree with some hon. members who said that the Canadian people may have reason to be disgusted, particularly with some of the people on my left.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Winkler: With reference to the minister's reply regarding channel 3, I would simply ask him whether he will meet the very unique protests made by some of his backbenchers, and some of his front benchers, which have been in line with what I have requested, because I do not believe—and I say this frankly and directly—that approval of this application will be in the best interests of television.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member, of course, is making a representation at the moment and not asking a supplementary question.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister. I understand that the minister has the prerogative in approving the transfer. Will he give the house an assurance that he will not, alone and unguided, make the decision but seek the views of the cabinet before making it?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me this is the same question that was asked previously by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Possibly I could ask this question of the minister, Mr. Speaker. Was it brought to his attention at any time that Mr. Snelgrove and those connected with him during the 1965 election, when Mr. Snelgrove took such an active part for the Liberal party here in Ottawa, boasted they were going to bring about the achievement of having this television station transferred from Barrie to Toronto?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think this question is in order.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): As a further supplementary question, I would