

*Broadcasting Committee*

**Mr. Speaker:** I allowed the hon. member to say a few words. He realizes, I am sure, that his remarks are outside the scope of the debate on the motion introduced by the hon. member for Hochelaga.

The motion now before us is to concur in the report to enable the committee to sit while the house is sitting. I doubt that a debate can be initiated outside the subject matter of the report, and more particularly, the motion before the house.

**Mr. Grégoire:** We are asked to sit while the house is sitting from now until May 5. The purpose of these sittings, as I explained at the start, is the question of the program "This Hour Has Seven Days". We are asked to sit while the house is sitting and while a mediator appointed by the Prime Minister is sitting.

That is why I believe my remarks are in order at this time, without objecting to granting the committee permission to sit while the house is sitting.

I object to sit so as to discuss this question while a mediator appointed by the Prime Minister is considering the same matter.

The motion, introduced last Friday, was perfectly in order and acceptable. But since then, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has set aside the rights of the committees and has shown contempt for the committee of the house by the appointment of a mediator to do the same work, the necessity to sit is no longer so great.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not believe the hon. member should go any further. He has stated an opinion which is not sufficiently related to the question before us to enable him to go on any longer.

[*English*]

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me, although I do not entirely approve of the particular appointment which has been made, I think the record should show—and my friend the hon. member for Hochelaga was trying to get Your Honour's attention—that the appointment was made on the recommendation of the committee about which the hon. member is speaking.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Grégoire:** The recommendation just mentioned by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) was that the two parties use the good offices of the Prime Minister at the present time. All the good offices of the

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Prime Minister are eliminated purely and simply and replaced by mediation.

[*English*]

**Miss LaMarsh:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the minister rising on the point of order?

**Miss LaMarsh:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, on this point of order which has been raised. The motion of the chairman of the broadcasting committee, the hon. member for Hochelaga, which was before the house on Friday last made reference to using the good offices of the government. My hon. friend will realize that it is the office of the Secretary of State which reports for the C.B.C., and thus that office could not become involved in such a matter.

In response to questions in the house the Prime Minister offered his good offices. He did not offer to mediate or to arbitrate personally in this regard; he suggested to the house, having been requested to do so by a resolution of the broadcasting committee of this house, that he would be prepared to offer those good offices providing it was satisfactory to the producers involved and to the corporation itself.

As a result of a purported threatened strike as of ten o'clock last evening the Prime Minister used, as he undertook to the house, his good offices to obtain an individual, one apart from the public service and who would be satisfactory to both parties concerned, to meet with them independent of the government and independent of the office of the Secretary of State in order to ascertain whether they might arrive at a settlement.

I suggest on this point of order, Mr. Speaker, that it is not inappropriate for the committee to proceed as it chooses to do in its motion now before the house, in that the resolution which was presented has been accepted and acted upon by the Prime Minister, who is thus not in any way in breach of the privileges of the house or the committee. The committee is at perfect freedom to proceed now as it chooses, while the individual who is acceptable to both parties goes ahead to try to arrive at a compromise agreement.

● (2:50 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, with reference to the motion, I feel that since the matter before the standing committee on broadcasting, films and assistance to the arts has now been entrusted to a mediator, the committee should no longer deal with the particular matter of "This Hour Has Seven Days".