

Does the immobility of the Prime Minister on that occasion become as sensational as his social activities and his trips? Never has a country been represented in such a strange way. Therefore it is important that we should be told the true reasons of his refusal to attend the funeral of General de Gaulle. France and Canada have many reasons to maintain frank and sincere ties of friendship. Pettiness, spite, differences of opinion must not alter these ties. It can be said that this is a tempest in a teapot; I will answer that very often such tempests mark the beginning of useless hostilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister should speak frankly. He does not have any valid reasons to offer—as his silence implies—he should say so frankly. In the meantime, he can always draw inspiration by reading General de Gaulle's memoirs.

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and of his Parliamentary Secretary the hon. member for York North (Mr. Danson), who are both presently attending a meeting here in Ottawa with representatives of the American government, I wanted to answer the hon. member for Champlain, but, after the Chair's two appropriate reminders, I think I have nothing to add.

I would have gladly brought to the attention of the Prime Minister or of his Parliamentary Secretary the remarks of the hon. member for Champlain, but really there is nothing to draw anyone's attention to. I only have to say that the Canadian government was very honourably represented at the funeral of General de Gaulle by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp).

[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—PERFORMANCE OF ILLEGAL ABORTION ON PROGRAM "WEEKEND"

Mr. Jean-R. Roy (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I asked the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) a three-part question regarding last evening's CBC "Weekend" program. For reasons known only to himself, the minister decided to ignore the question and not answer, but I hope an answer will be given this evening for I am sure that if the minister had seen this program he would have felt the same concern and disgust as I did. It is of little use to express this concern to the CBC's officials, Mr. Speaker, for these officials have even more disregard for the representations of citizens and MPs than the minister.

Part of the program in question to which I am objecting was the presentation of an abortion, beginning with a call from a girl in Vancouver to a Los Angeles abortion clinic, continuing with the surgical intervention, the vacuum suction procedure of the abortion, and ending with the post-surgical care to the patient. My first question, Mr. Speaker, is whether the performers in this presentation were paid directly or indirectly for their performance in a criminal, illegal abortion, but many more questions come to mind. Was the patient an ordi-

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nary individual really going through an abortion, or was she an actress? Were her abortion fees, air fare and other expenses paid with taxpayers' money? How was this young lady found, and how did the CBC stage the event? Did the doctors or the clinic receive any direct or indirect remuneration from the CBC? Was the program seen and/or approved by top CBC management?

At the end of the program the CBC announced a proposed opinion poll, the results to be shown next week. Mr. Speaker, I am curious to know if this poll will be taken to influence public opinion rather than report on it. Is the patient, coming from Vancouver, part of the diabolical plot involving that group of ignorant young ladies who gave Your Honour such a trying time and showed such disrespect for this House and the democratic process earlier this year?

Is this program part of such a plot to influence public opinion, or is it the reflection of sympathy by the producer and some CBC officials for the cause of free abortion? Their stupidity in contravening the proposed House of Commons debate by showing a program in such bad taste is morally offensive to very many Canadians. Mr. Speaker, the minister, I submit will be party to the connivance if he allows this report to be shown, probably after much editing, many staged interviews and the usual rating-affecting, distorted impact scenes have been taken. If the top CBC officials have any such control, then surely they are prostituting their mandate by agreeing to such programs.

The final part of my question, Mr. Speaker, asked the purpose for which this program was produced. Is the reason justifiable, or is this just another attempt by the CBC to influence program ratings by showing another program offensive to the morals of many Canadian viewers who pay for this nonsense? With each new, additional and questionable program of this type, Mr. Speaker, the goals, objectives and purposes of our national networks become more and more suspect. One network, the CBC, seems intent on the destruction of the moral values and fibre of our society. The other branch of the corporation, Radio Canada, seems intent on the destruction of our elected governmental bodies and our democratic system.

It is true that Parliament has given the top CBC management an autonomy which practically places this organization out of reach of all authority. Unless those responsible can stop delegating their authority to all sorts of irresponsible people down the line, and unless they have the courage and judgment to accept their responsibility and make the decisions necessary to stop this gross abuse of our national television system, they should resign. No program which offends the morals of people is justifiable, and this latest example goes much beyond the bounds of decency and objective programming.

I hope that the minister will insist on full answers and explanations with regard to these questions and will accept the duty inherent in his position of giving explanations to the House. I am supported, Mr. Speaker, in this submission by the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Sullivan) and many other hon. members.