

Supply—Secretary of State

regarding this patronage on *Hansard* than any I made here in this talk of mine.

There appears to be every reason to believe that patronage is rampant in the Post Office Department since the new government took office.

Mr. Knowles: I would like to ask the hon. member this question. When he reads this speech over the radio on the basis of reading it out of *Hansard*, will he read all the interjections as well?

Mr. Nielsen: I could do this, because I am sure that the C.B.C. would not censor any omissions.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Nielsen:

Another area in which patronage appears to be appearing once again is in the activities of the Department of Public Works.

This comes as a surprise to the minister because I did not speak on his estimates. I did not because I wanted to save the time of the house.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nielsen: I did not speak on the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Survey, or on the estimates of every other department active in the north because I wanted to save time; but this is something that cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. I agree with the principle that there should be no political interference with the C.B.C., but the reverse holds true as well. There should be no C.B.C. interference on commentaries made by myself or other hon. members of the house.

Mr. Deschatelets: Go on with your bedtime story.

Mr. Nielsen: I will continue reading my bedtime story to the Minister of Public Works.

I had a question placed on the order paper which has recently been answered showing that since April 8, 1963, there have been 131 contracts let by the Department of Public Works concerning goods and services supplied for the government in the Yukon. Of these 131 contracts, 103 were awarded without public tender call. There may be reason for awarding one or two contracts involving smaller amounts for goods and services without calling for public tender but to award 103 out of 131 without public tender call seems to me to be beyond reason. Of these 103 contracts which were awarded without calling for public tenders, 69 of the contracts involve goods and services which were supplied by Yukon firms. Thirty three of these contracts involving well over \$100,000 were awarded without public tender call to firms and individuals outside of the Yukon territory for goods and services to be supplied inside the Yukon territory. My position is this, that if public tenders were called for these contracts, the firms and individuals in the Yukon who could have supplied these goods and services would have at least had the opportunity to a competitive bid with those outside firms. My position is still that I believe this sort of procedure to be wrong

[Mr. Nielsen.]

and it should be rectified and I really don't care whether it went on under the last government or the previous government 20 years ago, or this government—the system is wrong and it should be rectified, and I will continue to work to that end.

It looks like this session of parliament will wind up its activities some time around the 20th of December. If the legislation has been completed by that time, the Prime Minister has said that there will be approximately a month's holiday but if the legislative program is not completed, the Prime Minister has said that it is his intention to call parliament back on December 27 to carry on until the work is completed. I think this is a proper approach and that since the job is full time, there can be no question about paying attention to completing the work before thinking of any holidays. It will result in my not being home for Christmas and also, perhaps, New Year's. It is my hope, however, that I will be able to get home at least for New Year's and for the first week or two in January to speak with as many Yukoners as I can. If I do not have the opportunity of personally wishing you a happy holiday season, I do so now, with my very best and sincere wishes for a warm and happy Christmas for all, and for a successful and prosperous new year.

My point to the Secretary of State is how absurd it is, now that that speech is on *Hansard*, I can give it; but I was censored out of this speech by C.B.C. officials who put their own interpretation on these words as being partisan and controversial.

Mr. Nesbitt: They put their own interpretation on practically everything.

Mr. Pickersgill: Will the hon. gentleman let me ask him a question. Now that he has read it to us, would he give it?

Mr. Nielsen: I am prohibited from doing it now because parliament is going to pack up tonight, and the ruddy regulations say that I cannot make a speech on the radio after parliament packs up. I can only communicate with my constituents while parliament is sitting. I am not imputing any motive to the C.B.C. officials on this delay. I would not think of such a thing, but I remember how indignant the Secretary of State was a year or two ago when the Preview Commentary came off and he alleged political interference because of the discontinuance of that program. Let him now be just as indignant when the C.B.C. is preventing me from conveying fair comment on the debates in this house to my constituents. That is all that can be said about it. I think it is fair comment. The Secretary of State does not. In fact all the members sitting over there do not think that what is said on this side of the house is fair comment, but by George, when the day comes that we are prevented from expressing our views on debates over the radio, which is the only means for me to reach my constituents in the north, then we have come to a sorry pass indeed in Canada.