

Supply—Secretary of State

order paper questions asking how often a certain person had appeared on television, on a certain program, and we have always received an answer.

So, why send secret messages? What is there to conceal in all that? What does the manager of the C.B.C. want to hide? Would he want to prepare a black list of independentists? Why, Mr. Chairman? They are citizens who are entitled to their opinions as long as they express them peaceably and quietly, and I think that they are now expressing their opinions quietly and peaceably.

Mr. Guay: 7-Up.

Mr. Grégoire: The hon. member for Lévis says: 7-Up. The Liberal party was there, as well as the members of the N.D.P., the Q.F.L. and the C.N.T.U. Let us not try to blame what does not exist. Some individuals may have taken advantage of the circumstance to create trouble. We do not approve it; on the contrary, we disapprove it; we condemn it. But as long as we do it peacefully and quietly, there is no reason to try to prevent the expression of any ideology.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) mentioned that all political parties were invited to the programs "Les affaires de l'État" and "La politique provinciale".

It should not be forgotten that at the last provincial election, 9.9 per cent of the people, that is 200,000 persons, voted for the independentists, and out of 25 programs available to the provincial parties, only one went to the independentist parties. Do you find that sufficient considering that independentists got 10 per cent of the vote? Can you say that that is normal and reasonable? Mr. Chairman, I think it would be advisable to ask the C.B.C. to revise its calculations in this regard.

That is what I wanted to say. I think the general manager of the C.B.C., Mr. Marcel Ouimet, should stop trying to build a black list around ideologies, around individuals who have the right to express themselves on the C.B.C. He should become a bit more broad-minded and allow everyone to make himself heard, and not prevent the Independentists from appearing on the C.B.C. because, like everybody else, they pay taxes to support that institutions.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, some time ago we had the opportunity of expressing our

[Mr. Grégoire.]

views and our wishes with regard to the C.B.C. I do not therefore intend to repeat the opinions expressed at that time.

Nor do I want to repeat the recriminations, the personal complaints and lamentations voiced by the members for Trois-Rivières, Lapointe and Villeneuve (Messrs. Mongrain, Grégoire and Caouette) because by so doing we would be straying from the purpose of the debate in which we are taking part this evening.

However, while we are studying item 1 of those estimates, I should like to express the views of those who elected me here, to acquaint my colleagues and the government with their views on that crown corporation.

I repeat that I do not intend to lean to generalities that I could lead us to criticisms with regard to all fields of administration of the C.B.C. I do not have to do so as recently, the regional director of the French network, Mr. Marcel Ouimet, in non-equivocal and extremely overwhelming terms severely criticized the conduct of his subordinates. What concerns me is to see that a responsible person in such an important position within a crown corporation should deem it necessary to accuse publicly employees under his own authority. Moreover, those charges were so serious that they infected and affected as well the confidence the public should have in this crown corporation. I said "infected" as I believe there is within the C.B.C. an infection which the regional director of the French network deemed necessary to expose publicly. We all know—all the members of the house are aware of it, whether they admit it or not—that there is within that organization an all-powerful control depending not upon the higher authorities, but in many cases upon those holding inferior positions in the hierarchy. We know, for instance, that there is in the field of public affairs an all-powerful person who determines what programs of public interest will be broadcast by the C.B.C. and what people should be chosen to take part in them.

Finally, that person whose name I believe I can mention, Mr. Marc Thibault, enjoys a greatly exaggerated authority within that crown corporation. Several employees of the C.B.C. complained to my office in the past about the omnipotence, the power of that high official who domineers over the public information broadcasts and controls them according to his whims.

So, if the regional director—