

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TELEVISION****QUEBEC—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING
EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Secretary of State. Has the federal government refused a broadcasting licence to Radio-Quebec? If so, for what reason? Before the Secretary of State answers, Mr. Speaker, may I ask him to take it easy so that the people translating, in the confessionals, can keep up with him. He talks a little fast and we cannot always understand the translation.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps if the minister were allowed to answer the question in writing it might be easier.

Mr. Paproski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government presently having talks with provincial authorities on the question of the sharing of jurisdiction over educational television? If so, when will the minister announce a policy on this matter?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hillsborough.

An hon. Member: Let the minister answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems that not only the people in the confessionals are having difficulty in hearing the question. The minister did not seem to hear it.

Mr. Paproski: May I repeat it, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Secretary of State whether the government is presently having talks with provincial authorities on the question of the sharing of jurisdiction over educational television. When will the minister announce this policy on this matter—s'il vous plaît.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the first question, I believe you asked the hon. member to put it on the order paper, at least that is what I understood.

As for the second question, I must say that talks are going on with many provinces about the construction of transmitters for educational television but those talks do not have any bearing on the division of constitutional responsibilities in this field.

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the minister about the granting of a T.V. licence to Radio-Quebec. Will

[*Mr. Dubé.*]

the decision be taken by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission or by the cabinet?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, broadcasting licences are granted by the C.R.T.C. It follows the policy which has been that of all Canadian governments since 1932, and that is not to grant licences to provinces or their agents. Formal instructions are now being drafted and will be communicated to the C.R.T.C. in a few weeks.

On the other hand, I wonder what prompted the hon. member's question. To my knowledge, and although I have been away no application for a licence was submitted to the C.R.T.C., but perhaps it escaped me.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary question.

How can the minister give such an answer when a licence has been granted to Station CKUA in Alberta?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is an argumentative question.

Mr. Asselin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The minister just said that he has not received any application for a licence from Radio-Québec and that, if he received one, it would be through the normal channels. However, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission has already granted a permit to Station CKUA, in Alberta, which is precisely a commission acting as an agent of the government of Alberta. I would like to know what direction the minister will give to his policy.

Mr. Speaker: It is obvious that the matter raised by the hon. member is argumentative and, for that reason, I do not think his supplementary question is in order.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question to the Secretary of State.

In answer to the first question put to him on the matter, he mentioned agreements with various provinces, without naming them, however. Would he do it now, and tell us as well if an agreement has been concluded with the province of Quebec on that matter?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I did not speak of agreements, but rather of talks, contacts and discussions. Now the study group who is specifically charged with the setting-up of educational television, that is with the installation of transmitters, has met with high