

Supply—Transport

Mr. Pickersgill: I will try to explain that. You cannot split up channel 3. It is either going to be in Barrie or it is not going to be in Barrie and if it stays in Barrie nobody else can have it. I think we all agree on that. Let us move on to the next step. How then are you going to get channel 3 in Toronto at all? There are two possible ways. One is for them to apply for a transfer. The other would be for them to say: We will take some other channel; we will hand this back to the Crown and let everybody compete for it. That kind of disinterestedness I would hardly expect of them or any other broadcaster, and I do not think the right hon. gentleman would either.

• (5:10 p.m.)

So channel 3 could not be open at this time for anybody unless they applied for a transfer, and the B.B.G. has to make a decision regarding that transfer. The B.B.G. cannot make such a decision unless the Snelgove interests apply for a transfer. Further, the B.B.G. can say: "If this is to be transferred we insist that other applicants should also have the right to apply." If they say that, either the applicant will have to withdraw its application or submit to competition. That is precisely the situation, and it is perfectly open to the board to say either of these things. The board might also say it does not believe the channel should be moved there at all. That is a possibility.

If I have left any doubt in any hon. member's mind I should like very much to clear it up. I am very pleased to submit to questioning on that point before I move to the next point.

Mr. Starr: I should like to ask the minister whether there have been any requests from groups of people or individuals not directly interested in a channel 3 licence at this moment to have the channel transferred to Toronto? What is the purpose of moving channel 3 to Toronto?

Mr. Pickersgill: Quite frankly I do not know the answer to that question, but no group of citizens has come to me and stated that they wanted channel 3 moved to Toronto.

Mr. Diefenbaker: They could not obtain that even if they wanted it. No wonder they have not applied.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not think the hon. member was talking about an application; he was talking about disinterested citizens making a demand. I do not know of any such

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

demand. All I know is that these applicants have done something that has been done a great many times before. They have applied for permission to move their channel. At almost every hearing of the B.B.G. there are applications heard for the transfer of channels. There is nothing unprecedented about this. When they made their application it became the duty of the Department of Transport to evaluate it and that is what we are doing

Mr. Smith: I think I can speak for the people of Simcoe county when I say that they want channel 3 left where it is. If their interests are considered that is where the channel will remain. The minister spoke a moment ago about the application respecting channel 3 which I believe is related to a counter-application for a broadcasting station on channel 5 located somewhere in Simcoe county. We think that is second best so far as Simcoe county is concerned.

The minister spoke about the distance between two channels. Is it not a fact that in respect of adjoining channels there has to be a 60 mile separation such as between channel 6 in Toronto and the transmitter for channel 5? Is that not a technical requirement? If we in Simcoe county are given channel 5 will the transmitter not have to be moved considerably north, much closer to Muskoka and Parry Sound than it now is? May we have an answer to that question? Does the present application for channel 5 call for the transmitter to be situated somewhere near the hamlet of Warminster near Orillia, which is 20 to 25 miles farther north than the present location of the transmitter.

Mr. Pickersgill: I am afraid the hon. member, as is perhaps understandable, has a more detailed geographical knowledge of Simcoe county than I have but the information I gave the other day is all the information I have in my hand. I have no doubt I can get this other information. I am quite sure that if this application does come before the Board of Broadcast Governors there will be plenty of people from Barrie and Simcoe county who will make very strong representations about the matter. I have no doubt about that whatsoever.

Mr. Smith: I am mainly interested in the technical points concerned in this application.

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps before the consideration of my estimates is concluded I will obtain that technical information for the hon. gentleman. However, again this is something