

here. Because of conditions duly announced by the government the Saskatoon licence by the CBC, as I understand it, is not to be proceeded with. Is that not the case?

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, no licence has been granted. The advice is from the BBG to the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Fairweather: The estimate was approved, was it not, in this year's estimates?

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, I think that is the case.

Mr. Fairweather: The point being, it is almost like a dog-in-the-manger attitude. Perhaps there is private capital that is not restricted like public capital is, that could provide a facility there. Now, does this mean that the whole licence process is held up?

Miss LaMarsh: No, I think I gave at least my opinion this morning, that it is not a case of mortmain; I think that whole situation is now open again before the BBG. There is nothing in the instructions or in the announcement of the Prime Minister that Saskatoon could not now be gone ahead with that I remember, that indicated that it was being deferred. I am not sure at all that the Minister of Transport or the Governor in Council has a right to defer. I think the right is only to accept the recommendation or not, that is all.

Mr. Jamieson: In this particular case, Miss LaMarsh, the government has, I believe, earmarked six locations for the express and exclusive use of the CBC, one of which is Saskatoon and the other Saint John, New Brunswick, and there are four others. It would have to, I would assume, lift that restriction before anything further could be done.

Miss LaMarsh: Those were set out in the White Paper, I think.

• (4:35 p.m.)

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, and in other documents, as I recall.

Miss LaMarsh: Well, I have forgotten which one, but I do remember that they were set out in several places where there were restrictions. But you of all people, Mr. Jamieson, know how fast this field is changing, and where the government may have decided a couple of years ago, when the White Paper was prepared, that those places should be

reserved, that obviously is not necessarily a decision that is going to last forever. Before we are able to develop them—I think it was Victoria, Saskatoon, Sudbury, Saint John, Fredericton area—before we have enough money to be able to expand in these places as well as to other places that have no service at all, it may be that we will be overtaken by technological improvements and will never get around to it; I do not know. I find this field absolutely fascinating, but you have to run awfully hard to stay caught up to what the technicians are doing.

Mr. Fairweather: Well, on the last question at this stage. About pre-emption of time by the Governor in Council, would it not look better—and I put the word "look" in quotes—if that was by the regulatory authority? Surely they are privy to national emergencies and so on, and would. . .

Miss LaMarsh: I have found that. . .

Mr. Fairweather: I am not a person of a suspicious nature, but I wonder whether government should have the right to. . .

Miss LaMarsh: I found that suggestion not unattractive when it was made in the debate. I have not discussed it with my colleagues, but I think that the point is obvious. Certainly, if I were sitting in opposition I would wish to deal with it at length, and I think that it is to everyone's interest that it not provide an opportunity for unwarranted dislocation of programming and taking to the air by the government of the day.

Mr. Fairweather: I would like to have you think,—I hope you do—that I would make the same plea if I were in support of the government on this point. I sincerely mean that.

Miss LaMarsh: It may be that the Committee thinks that the regulatory body should make a decision, it may be that the Committee when it reaches this section will have some ideas of modifying the extent of it. I am trying to pre-think the kind of situations there might be. I am quite open to any such suggestion.

Mr. McCleave: Is provision of that sort in the present Act, Mr. Chairman?

Miss LaMarsh: The BBG now has the power.

Mr. Fairweather: The Governor General's New Year's message, for example; this is the