

Inquiries of the Ministry

involved, would she indicate the general area in which the "rotten management" occurred, for the benefit both of parliament and of the people so we may know what it was the Secretary of State learned about?

Miss LaMarsh: I have thought about that for the last couple of days, but it is very difficult to pass on any of this information without doing one of two things, either pointing to the person or persons within the corporation to whom reference is made, or to the persons who have been the sources of information I have received. I feel that if I were to disclose the names of any of the sources—and here I must take an example from the fourth estate—no secretary of state hereafter would ever get any information about what was going on within the corporation. I do not, therefore, propose publicly to name any of these individuals, now or at any time.

I do not believe anything further can be gained from speculation about the individuals who are responsible, or who appear to be responsible, for some of the things I have already mentioned or described and, unless I am completely specific, to say anything more about it would narrow it down to some individuals but still touch those who might not be responsible.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Why did you start it, then?

Miss LaMarsh: Any suggestion I started anything obviously shows only the ignorance of the man who said that, because the reports which this government and earlier governments have commissioned over the past few years have indicated exactly the same thing. It comes as some surprise to me that any member of this house who previously interested himself in this particular subject was surprised at the charge at all.

Mr. Nielsen: It was a charge?

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I would direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister, and ask him whether the government will accept the responsibility to act immediately to make public the allegations that were made, in order that any such management errors may be made public and speedily rectified.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is anything I can add at the moment to what the Secretary of State has said. She has taken this on in her responsibility as a

member of the government, and I do not think anything I could say would be useful.

Mr. Starr: As a supplementary question, would the hon. gentleman prevail upon the Prime Minister to take part in the debate on the broadcasting bill which is before the house at the present time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether this question should not be asked when the debate is under way later today.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State. With regard to the information which has come to the attention of the minister, not the information which appears in the Fowler report or any other report but the information which has come to her, which is strictly confidential and which, according to the minister, is worse than that in the Fowler report, may I ask if this information has been transmitted to Mr. Ouimet and the top management of the C.B.C.? If not, why has it not been brought to their attention so they might take some remedial action?

Miss LaMarsh: No, I have not brought it to their attention, the reason being that I felt the only way it could be cleared up was by bringing it to the attention of the new management.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the hon. Secretary of State.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I will say that I agree with the Secretary of State's comments concerning the C.B.C., but I would like to know if she has answered the arrogance of the former president of the C.B.C., Mr. Alphonse Ouimet? Has the hon. minister answered his arrogant letter?

[*English*]

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): As a supplementary question to the Secretary of State, further to her statement that this information would be turned over to the new heads of the C.B.C., can the minister inform the house whether the Prime Minister will announce the appointments of the new heads today, or some day later this week?

Miss LaMarsh: I would think this is dependent upon the passage of the legislation now before the house. Those appointments, I