

*Supply—Transport*

decide, first, whether or not another television channel should be permitted in metropolitan Toronto at the present time. They will have to decide that question before they decide who is going to get it.

The second question they will have to decide, if another channel is to be made available in Toronto, is whether they will agree to a transfer to the same licensee from Barrie. They could easily say: No, we will not; all we will do—if they agree to make the channel available in metropolitan Toronto—is to open it for applications.

We know that one of the most powerful stations and one of the earliest pioneers in broadcasting in this country, CFRB in Toronto, has indicated that it is interested. It has not made a formal application but I told the committee the other day that it had brought the matter before my department and had indicated that, if channel 3 was to be open, it would want to apply. I do not think there is the slightest doubt that if there is a hearing it will intervene.

So far as I can recall it has been invariable with the B.B.G. that once a serious intervener appears at a hearing and indicates he wants to make another application, then the date of the hearing has been postponed in order to permit that other application to be made. So it does not seem to me there is any possibility of this matter being decided except after not only a public hearing but almost certainly interventions at that hearing.

I do not know whether to take seriously the exchange of telegrams I had with Mr. Joel Aldred because I really do not know whether or not one takes him seriously. He did get a licence, the first licence in Toronto. It was in his name. Mr. Bassett was associated with him but they seem to have had a falling out and Mr. Aldred is out of the business. Whether he seriously wants to get back into it I do not know.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I should like to ask one question just for information. The minister says that channel 3 is the exclusive right of the Snelgrove interests?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** No, no.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Do I misunderstand? I understood the minister to say that only Mr. Snelgrove could get channel 3 and has a right to the use of channel 3. I want to be clear.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I am very grateful to the right hon. gentleman for putting that question so clearly, because if I said that it certainly is not correct. They are the licensee

of channel 3 at the present time and their licence has not expired. During the period that that licence runs I do not think it could be taken away from them except for cause, and only once in the whole history of broadcasting in this country, and never in the case of television, has a licence been revoked.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** There was one in Alberta, I think.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** In British Columbia. I know, for it provided me with many headaches, but the record of the Snelgrove station in Barrie is such that I have never heard of any ground for revoking their licence.

It is quite clear that channel 3 cannot be used both at Barrie and at some other place near Toronto, because it has to be used in one place or the other. If I am not making myself clear—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I cannot follow it. It is at that point that there seems to be some divergence.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** If channel 3 continues to be used in Barrie it cannot be used on the edge of metropolitan Toronto because there would be the most hopeless kind of interference. I think this is where there is a great deal of misunderstanding of how this whole matter has come about. As long as the licensees of channel 3 in Barrie just sit on their licence at Barrie and as long as their licence lasts—I do not say they have a right to it indefeasibly or indefinitely, it being a piece of public property—as long as they comply with the law they will have their licence there.

Therefore the only way a process could be started by which this channel could be moved to Toronto would be for those licensees to give up their licence entirely, which I would not expect them or any other licence holder to do, and ask to have it transferred.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** And no one else could get it then.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is where the right hon. gentleman keeps going wrong all the time.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Why?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Because they have no right to have it transferred. They have a right to exercise it in Barrie but no right to transfer it anywhere else.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** If they have the right to this channel 3, how can any other body secure the right in Toronto for that portion of the area encompassed by channel 3?