

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that the government has twice made a very serious error. On the very day that closure was imposed in the flag debate we had reached the conclusion in our caucus to terminate the debate. But the government stupidly imposed closure.

Mr. Matheson: The country did not think so.

Mr. Churchill: It stupidly imposed closure. It thought that would gain it a victory in the next election but here it is, still sitting as a minority government. Once again in this debate, instead of coming to an agreement as could have been done the government rushes ahead with closure, so keen is it to impose its will on the house.

I see it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to state I shall have a few other things to say because I want to discuss allocation of time. I want to say something about the business committee and deal with a few other matters with respect to parliament. May I call it six o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury), Housing—Toronto—inquiry as to action to relieve shortage; the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. Muir), Veterans Affairs—Camp Hill, N.S.—reported lack of hospital accommodation.

The house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions (papers), private bills and public bills.

Mr. McNulty: Mr. Speaker, may we by unanimous consent stand notices of motions 145, 137, and 128 and resume the debate on No. 200 in the same of the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

23033—958

Motions for Papers

• (6:00 p.m.)

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION— PAYMENTS MADE TO JOHN T. SAYWELL AND/OR JOHN C. RICKER

The house resumed, from Thursday, March 9, consideration of motion of Mr. Cowan:

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of all correspondence, telegrams or other correspondence dated since January 1, 1961, exchanged between the Secretary of State or any agency or department of the government of Canada relating to payments made to John T. Saywell and/or John C. Ricker by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and a list setting out in detail each such payment to each such person.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I made a few remarks in support of the motion of the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) when this matter was previously before the house. At this time I should like to refer to a specific situation in respect of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In view of the fact we will have other opportunities to discuss this whole question I shall confine my remarks to this specific matter.

Since the matter was discussed last I have seen a number of articles in newspapers regarding the amounts of money paid to various people employed on a permanent or temporary basis by the C.B.C. One article to which I wish to refer appeared in a number of newspapers in the Thomson chain. The author is Mr. Patrick Nicholson, a member of the press gallery. The article pointed out that one telecaster for the C.B.C. receives the large sum of \$35,000 per year. It also gave more detail in respect of other salaries and amounts paid by the C.B.C. to various individuals.

It seems strange to me that when we as the elected representatives of the people request information regarding money paid by the C.B.C. we are inevitably informed that this is none of our business and such disclosures would not be in the public interest. After all, we are only the people who established this creature of parliament. We are not permitted to obtain these facts but the newspaper media, the fourth estate, obviously has access to this information. Obviously the information is obtained from the corporation. I am glad it is provided because at least in this way we can find out indirectly how much is being paid to various permanent or temporary employees.

I should like to know why we as members of this house cannot obtain this information by placing questions on the order paper. Whenever the estimates of the C.B.C. are