

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

So, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask whether the Secretary of State had heard any comments about this program and whether protests had been made by residents of north-western Quebec. Here I would like, to support my remarks, to quote from an editorial which appeared in the November 1 issue of *L'Écho*, and which was reprinted in the November 8 issue of *La Frontière*. I shall read the first part of this article, which is self-explanatory:

The air in our households was polluted by a program originating from Radio-Nord; the term "polluted" is none too strong to express our resentment, our disappointment and our bitterness at viewing the program "Blanc sur Noir", which had been extensively publicized for weeks.

Mr. Antonio Flamand, whether one agrees or disagrees with the policies of the member for Rouyn-Noranda, whether one approves or disapproves his conduct as a public official, one is not entitled to be examining magistrate, public prosecutor and judge at the same time, and especially to hurl insults in the face of a man and a population by trying to pass for a journalist.

Last week, we deplored the removal of the program "Le sel de la semaine", due to several complaints, in favour of a local program; no doubt it was intended to punish us for a long time by showing of a spectacle that does not even belong in vaudeville, the main attraction being *sub judice*, which means in journalistic terms and for everybody else too, that we are not allowed to discuss it.

Here, I would like to say that following this editorial, the director or president of Radio-Nord made a correction, saying that this program "Blanc sur Noir" was not replacing "Le sel de la semaine" but rather another program from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation entitled "Dossiers."

Then, after all that, came an avalanche of protests. The last and most important protest—the Secretary of State or at least the B.B.G. probably heard of it—came from the city of Amos and was set forth in a resolution passed at one of the recent meetings of the council of this town. I quote the whereases of this resolution to put them on the official record and to bring them to the attention of the minister's secretary:

"Whereas Radio-Nord Inc. has, on October 30, 1967, at 10 o'clock p.m., despite many protests from the public, replaced the excellent program "Le Sel de la Semaine" originating from the C.B.C. with its program "Blanc sur Noir" deceiving once again the people served by Radio-Nord Inc.;

"Whereas "Blanc sur Noir", on October 30 last, was purely and simply an insult to the population, in view of the behaviour of two so-called journalists, Dexter and Bouchard, who, during the whole program, used every effort and in the most vulgar way to tarnish the reputation of their guest, the member for Rouyn-Noranda, Mr. Antonio Flamand;

[Mr. Laprise.]

"Whereas the management of Radio-Nord Inc. could have cancelled that program, which was taped;

"Whereas, by this shocking and offensive program, Radio-Nord Inc. showed once again that it cannot serve efficiently the people of the Quebec northwestern area who, paying taxes to the federal government, are, as much as others, entitled to a complete broadcasting service by the C.B.C.;

"Whereas the city of Amos wishes to join with the cities of Chibougamau, Chapais and Matagami to ask also for full radio and television coverage by the C.B.C.;

Wherefore, it is moved by alderman Jean-Hughes Boutin, seconded by alderman Jacques Bourgeois and resolved unanimously that the Board of Broadcast Governors be requested to investigate the actions of Radio-Nord Inc. with regard to the program "Blanc sur Noir" of October 20, 1967, and that the board of governors be also requested to see to it that full radio and television coverage is given by the C.B.C. to all the people of north-western Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Secretary of State will study that resolution and follow it up.

I should like to add that for a number of years, particularly on the week-end, we have been pestered with stupid gogo programs which only interest children; in fact, not all children listen to these programs, which are intended for them.

Therefore, in my opinion, the C.B.C. should service that area, at least for the time being, with FM radio programs, which would not irritate the people with abstract music, but help them to acquire greater culture by giving them worthwhile programs of truly great and beautiful music.

I support wholeheartedly the request of the authorities of the town of Amos that the C.B.C. service the region of Amos as it does other regions throughout Canada, since we pay taxes just as they do.

Mr. Albert Bécharde (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, after having read in the newspapers of north-western Québec *L'Écho* and *La Frontière* what has been written on that famous program of October 30 called "Blanc sur Noir" on the CKRN-TV station, after having heard several comments and especially the statement of the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) I understand quite well his indignation and that of most people of northwestern Quebec as a result of that televised program.

However, I must say to the hon. member for Chapleau that the Secretary of State has in no way been asked either by a request or by a resolution emanating from any public organization to intervene in that particular case.