

Supply—C.B.C.

Mr. Reinke: —because there were some supporters of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in that same crowd.

Mr. Hamilton (Noire Dame de Grace): And they were booing him, too.

Mr. Reinke: I was one of them. That was on June 2, before third reading. I know that is a fact because I was out there and I know the Minister of Trade and Commerce received a great many cheers but it says here there were many boos for Liberal cabinet ministers, and opposition leader Drew and Mr. Coldwell were almost mobbed.

That was on June 2. Again there was mention of the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart, but where is the hon. member for Peace River? Does he not represent a party in this parliament? They seemed to give three times as much time to the Leader of the Opposition as they did to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but that may be a coincidence.

Then finally on June 6 we get the hon. member for Peace River. At last they realized that there were four parties in the House of Commons. I was there on that particular night, as I had been on June 2. I thought I would go out on the final night to see what was going to be telecast. Of course they had the hon. member for Peace River and the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart on, and then they stated that the crowd was becoming noisy and boisterous by the time the Minister of Trade and Commerce emerged. They said there were no cheers for the minister. Then there was some commentary on what the minister said, and there was reference to the Leader of the Opposition and other hon. members who were coming from the building. It does not say much about the Leader of the Opposition except in the last few words, which were:

The bill to permit the pipe line was passed five years ago, over five years ago, and now—

Then Larry McDonald said:

Thank you very much anyway.

Then the announcer said:

As you can see—it was impossible for the Progressive Conservative leader to finish his statement. Later, C.B.C. television news asked him to outline again the points he wanted to make.

There we had all the other parties out in front. Apparently they had to go to the home of the Leader of the Opposition to finally get a statement from him as to what went on. I do not know who is to blame for this misinformation. I am not blaming it all on the C.B.C., but I think some blame rests on them in this particular case. Probably some blame should rest on the Toronto station. I think a lot of it stems from the fact that they have

[Mr. Ellis.]

to take the news as it comes out of the press gallery. As long as the C.B.C. wants to operate a news service and produces news concerning the House of Commons, they should have someone here in the gallery. It would require a relatively small expenditure to have a man in the press gallery. At the meetings of the general assembly of the United Nations the C.B.C. has a staff of reporters, but in the House of Commons, the highest legislative body in Canada, they have no one to report on behalf of the C.B.C. That is something that should be corrected as quickly as possible.

I should like to close by saying that parliament will have a problem to face when the royal commission presents its report. It will be our duty to assess the findings in that report. We will have to decide whether it shall be the duty of the C.B.C. to be responsible for the presentation of culture to the people of Canada. Are we going to be responsible for giving them the news of Canada? Are we going to be responsible for entertaining the Canadian people? Is it going to be our job to sell the merchandise and subsidize the program sponsors? Are we going to support the C.B.C. by importing foreign programs and talent? Are we going to use the C.B.C. to educate the people?

These are problems which we will have to face next year. I want to thank hon. members for permitting me to finish my remarks.

Mr. Knowles: Is the hon. member doubting the impartiality of the Canadian Press and the British United Press when it comes to covering parliament? Does the hon. member want them to be replaced by a government-sponsored news gathering service?

Mr. Reinke: I am suggesting that the news that came out of the press gallery with regard to the pipe-line debate was slanted and biased. I know that a good portion of it was cleverly written, but if you have a steady diet of it day in and day out, a little bit here and a little bit there, just twisted a little bit, the over-all picture becomes biased.

Mr. Knowles: Is it not because the Liberals do not like seeing themselves as others see them?

Mr. Bryson: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that after the remarks just made by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat—

Mr. Knowles: A Liberal member at that.

Mr. Bryson: —the members of the press gallery will mend their ways. I hope the people of Canada will not repudiate the C.B.C. because of the very silly arguments which have been put forward by the hon. member for Hamilton South. It seems to me