

BROADCASTING

CANCELLATION OF LICENCE OF CKPM BY
CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION
COMMISSION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Although it is difficult to know under which department some of these organizations actually come. I am speaking of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. I think it comes under the hon. gentleman when he is here. Today I would ask him whether it is acceptable to the government that Pierre Juneau as chairman of that commission, without a hearing and in almost a star chamber fashion, to use the words of the President of the Privy Council, should have cancelled the licence of CKPM? What is the attitude of the minister in this regard? Will he secure an explanation from Mr. Pierre Juneau in respect of his statement that he could not conceive of Mr. Stewart having the right to apply for a licence again? Surely the minister can speak out and assure us that Canadians shall not have their rights determined by any government board without a hearing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the right hon. member for Prince Albert has addressed a question to me. In the allegations he has just made, and I do not even admit half of them, I have not found the elements of a question. If he cares to put a question to me, I shall try to answer it.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I can understand the minister having difficulty understanding the House of Commons after holidaying for weeks—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman might ask his question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My reference arose out of the challenge expressed by the minister, and I am sure he wants information. I ask him this: is it considered proper that a Canadian should have his rights determined by Pierre Juneau regardless of the fact that no opportunity has been given for a hearing and regardless of whether or not the minister approves of the statements made by this commissioner that he is going to

Inquiries of the Ministry

act as he will, with no regard for Canadian feeling?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I said I do not admit the allegations made by the right hon. member for Prince Albert. They are inadmissible because they do not represent the truth, the reality or the facts. Therefore, I cannot agree with the conclusions that the hon. member draws himself from false assertions.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Evasion like that may be all right in newspaper offices but this is Parliament. I ask the minister: will he get in touch with this dictator, Juneau, and find out the facts?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, first I think that the CRTC is not Mr. Pierre Juneau. It is the whole Canadian Radio-Television Commission and if the right hon. member for Prince Albert has doubts on this matter, I should advise him to read the Broadcasting Act. If my memory serves me right, he was not in this House when the legislation was passed.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Of course I will recognize the right hon. gentleman on a question of privilege but I trust we will be given an opportunity to go on to the next subject at an early date.

Mr. Diefenbaker: My question of privilege is this: who is this minister who dares to treat Parliament so insolently? Questions are asked but he laughs at Parliament, and that is what he has done all along.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Has the hon. member for Annapolis Valley a supplementary question?

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I welcome back the Secretary of State from his external affairs tour. My supplementary question is: would he check with the chairman of the CRTC and make a statement to the House, hopefully tomorrow or whenever he is going to be in the House next, to amplify