

Canadian Policy on Broadcasting

things that have gone on in the corporation" on which you presumably based your "rotten management" charges.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I am astonished that in the light of your particular responsibilities you did not see fit to immediately impart this information to the corporation so that your charges could have been proved or disproved and appropriate action taken. It is essential that the corporation be given all relative information which may be in your possession.

There is nothing arrogant about that request.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question? He may have said it, but I did not hear him. When was this letter sent?

Mr. Nielsen: I do not know when the letter was sent but the copy in my possession, which is a photostat, is dated November 3, today. One of the quotations in it from the minister's statement, particularly "that there are some absolutely appalling things that have gone on in the corporation," was made this morning on the orders of the day, I believe, or yesterday.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask my hon. friend, is this a letter he got from the press gallery? Could he tell us the source?

Mr. Nielsen: There is a sheet attached to this letter headed "C.B.C. Information Services." The date is November 3, 1967, and this sheet says:

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter sent today to the Secretary of State by the president of the C.B.C.

C.B.C. Information Services.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Thank you.

Mr. Fairweather: This is the minister's charge.

Mr. Nielsen: The minister should give the house answers to the legitimate queries she has raised. If she wishes to do that now, I will gladly resume my seat.

Miss LaMarsh: Finish your speech. Don't deprive us of that.

Mr. Nielsen: I think the minister really put her foot in it.

Miss LaMarsh: You and the member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) seem to have the same phrase.

Mr. Nielsen: I am sorry for the minister because she is obviously one who is fed up to the teeth with politics. We all get that way once in a while. She has already announced her intention to resign, so perhaps she does not care what she says.

Mr. Turner: Did you not say the same thing, that you were not going to run again?

Mr. Nielsen: If hon. members were up on their reading of the press they would know that statement was refuted as soon as the opportunity afforded itself.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): All politicians get frustrated, even the hon. member for Winnipeg South.

Mr. Nielsen: The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) must be the most frustrated politician in the house. He has ceased being a politician.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I never get frustrated. I am always amused.

Mr. Churchill: I sustain his interest in politics.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): You helped me this morning.

Mr. Sherman: Mr. Speaker, I think when the minister made his reference to frustration he meant to refer to my colleague, and not the member for Winnipeg South.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the hon. member's colleague.

Mr. Nielsen: In any event, Mr. Speaker, if this bill embodies government broadcasting policy, then I believe, and it is a personal belief, that it appears to be an extremely dangerous policy indeed. The bill sets up a commission with the archaic title of Canadian radio commission. To this commission it gives absolute powers over broadcasting, including the granting and revoking of licences. To make matters even worse, it delegates those powers to a five-man executive committee. The powers of this executive committee are indeed frightening. I am not going to say anything about program content because I do not think that is relevant to the deeper principle involved in the bill.

There are many, and I sometimes count myself among them, who believe there is nothing really wrong with the C.B.C. that