

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

it came here and presided in the gallery. The galleries were packed that day and Charlie, Don and other people of the Messer group were up there watching our performance. I was talking to them outside when a very distinguished political personage came to talk to Charlie Chamberlain. An old lady who was outside came to see the line-up and said, "Who is that person talking to Charlie Chamberlain?" I will not reveal the identity of that political personage except to say he was a great ornament of the party opposite.

Sir, there is a remedy to what is happening. If people want to see the Messer show continue they ought to walk to the nearest C.B.C. station or talk to the nearest C.B.C. director or vice president about it. They might get on the telephone to the C.B.C. or, at the worst, mail letters to the C.B.C.

I have known the Messer group for a long time and there is not a swollen head among them. They are a level headed, folksy, good group of people and I say to the plain folk of Canada that if you want the Messer show to continue the thing to do is to show the C.B.C. that you want it to continue. We must show the C.B.C. we want the program to return in the fall and I suggest the campaign for that should start right now.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Good for you, Bob.

**Mr. Robert Stanbury (Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose all good things must come to an end, even the stirring appeal of the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave). The C.B.C. advises me that the Don Messer show indeed will go the way of Juliette and will not be renewed next fall. I must say that the plain folk on this side of this house are as shocked by the announcement as is the hon. member. The C.B.C. offers some solace in advising that the replacement for the Messer show will be "Singalong Jubilee" originating in Halifax.

I would like the hon. member to withdraw the suggestion that the villians of this piece in Toronto are trying to take something away from Halifax. On the contrary they seem to be trying to inject new life into Halifax because they advise me that the purpose of this change of programming is to provide that time slot with a somewhat younger look and orientation. They tell me that they recognize the great contribution made by the Don Messer program over the years, and they hope that the new program "Singalong Jubilee" will inspire the same kind of support and

approval that the hon. member has expressed for that show, which has drawn so many listeners from so many parts of Canada down through the years.

**WOODS REPORT—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in the question period this afternoon I asked the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Dubé) if the Woods report and the government's white paper thereon might soon be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. His initial answer was that this would be done as soon as possible, but when I asked him if we could hope that it might be done during the month of April I believe his reply was to the effect that he did not know.

I posted this question for tonight's late show because I confess to the minister that I am disappointed that it is taking so long to get the Woods report to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. I believe that in expressing my disappointment I am expressing the disappointments of members of all parties in this house, and certainly the disappointment of veterans across this country.

The Woods report was a very important document. It took some two and a half years to prepare. It was finally tabled in the House of Commons on March 26, 1968, over a year ago. The then minister of veterans affairs promised that consideration would be given to it as early as possible, and the present Minister of Veterans Affairs on September 13, 1968, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 24, said clearly that the Woods report would be referred to the standing committee as soon as possible so that the opinions of that committee might be given to the government. The minister confirmed that position on September 30, 1968, as recorded in *Hansard* at page 564.

If my research is correct it was not until February 3, 1969, that the minister altered the position and said that no action would be taken to refer the Woods report to the standing committee until a government white paper was also ready so that it too might be referred to that same committee. Several times since then he has confirmed this secondary position that the committee cannot study this matter until it has the government white paper.

This is certainly giving the veterans' organizations and the veterans who are members of