

should be given an opportunity to make his speech in the same way other speakers were given the opportunity.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that they might listen with the same degree of respect with which I listened to the statements just made by the other three speakers. I should like to repeat that the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, in bringing out certain points, failed to state that the report of Judge Robinson is not yet complete. The part which is still to be completed is to cover some very important areas which concern the entire problem involved in settling this issue.

I should like to say also that, in the past, strikes have been and today are a part of the legitimate process in labour-management relations to protect the rights of the workers. But strikes also can be used as a pretty heavy club. In fact, when it concerns a service which is as essential to the whole air transportation system of this country as that performed by the air traffic controllers, I think a strike threat at this Christmas season could amount to blackmail, and certainly is a very powerful club in the hands of those who are attempting to use it to achieve what they want.

It is one thing to criticize the government for its ineptitude and lack of initiative in dealing with this as well as in other recent strike problems—and members of the government deserve criticism in this regard. On the other hand, at this critical time we have a procedure which has been recommended by the government whereby legislation will be provided to deal with this matter and ensure that air transportation in this country will continue while at the same time talks, in which the government is taking a very direct part, are going on. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in our responsibility in this house it seems to me that we must face the issue as it is at the present time, and not be a part of any strategy or manoeuvring which might be an attempt to disrupt or hinder the negotiations going on now.

While we may feel very critical about what the government has done, on the other hand there is a responsible attitude which we as members of this house must take in respect of the situation, in the hope that an agreement can be reached which would avoid a strike, and avoid the implementation of legislation in this house, if a satisfactory agreement is not reached.

In my opinion the time has passed when the government should have taken the initiative

### *Members' Acceptance of Fees from C.B.C.*

to provide legislation to cover certain essential services in this country in the event of the possibility of a strike, because the economy of this country cannot go forward in a stable and satisfactory way if it is continually disrupted by strikes. On behalf of our party I should like to say that we will give our support to the legislation which is necessary to avoid at this time a strike which would completely paralyse the air transportation industry. At the same time, however, we will not be a part of any manoeuvre which would endanger the negotiations taking place.

Without repeating some of the legitimate criticisms which have been made of the members of the government for their lack of initiative in this area, I should like to say that at this point we have something more to do than just to criticize.

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

#### LEGAL STATUS OF MEMBERS RECEIVING HONORARIA OR FEES FOR BROADCASTING

#### **Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):**

Mr. Speaker, in a question which has appeared on the order paper the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Brand) has raised a question regarding the situation in respect of members of parliament who accept fees from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I said that I would make a statement in this regard and I shall be glad to do so now.

● (3:10 p.m.)

First of all let me say that as regards the present parliament, no member elected in November, 1965, has been offered or has accepted a payment from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation since that election.

The question whether a member of parliament is disqualified from sitting in the House of Commons if he accepts a fee from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is governed by the Senate and House of Commons Act. Section 15 of that act reads:

No person, directly or indirectly, alone or with any other, by himself or by the interposition of any trustee or third party, holding or enjoying, undertaking or executing any contract or agreement, expressed or implied, with or for the government of Canada on behalf of the crown, or with or for any of the officers of the government of Canada, for which any public money of Canada is to be paid, is eligible as a member of the House of Commons, or shall sit or vote in the said house.