

Supply—Secretary of State

looked into the problem of the C.B.C. and of French programs in other provinces than the province of Quebec.

It is neither intolerance nor extremism to quote those few remarks.

On page 2 of the same issue, one can read this:

In August 1962, the C.B.C. requested from the board of broadcast governors, at a public hearing, "the authorization to have CJBC, its AM English radio station in Toronto, broadcast French programs on a full time basis."

It is not only since last week that Toronto citizens recognize the need of such a radio station.

Perhaps I could give here an example of comprehension on our part, since in Quebec city, radio station CKMI broadcasts a certain number of programs on the English network which is nearly equal to the programs broadcast by CFCM-TV on the French network. It gives the same number of broadcasts if we take into account the number of hours it is on the air, while the English people represent only 3 per cent of that population of 300,000.

According to the statistics, there are, I think, 167,000 possible listeners in the Toronto area, 63,000 of whom are French Canadians.

I do not think it is exaggerated to say that the people of Toronto will easily accept a French station. Indeed, there are as many tolerant people in Toronto as in the province of Quebec, people who accept the existence of the two major cultures. It is therefore possible to set up a station of the C.B.C.'s French network in Toronto, without going back on a decision which was taken by the B.B.G. after serious consideration.

In my opinion, the best thing to do would be to accept the decision of the C.B.C. and to ignore the extremists who are against a French station in Toronto.

[Text]

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Chairman, there are a few remarks I should like to make on the C.B.C. estimates.

Mr. Pickersgill: We are on the B.B.G. at the moment. If it is the C.B.C., I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would wait.

Item agreed to.

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—

1. Grant in respect of the net operating amount required to discharge the responsibilities of the national broadcasting service, \$78,439,000.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, as I started to say on the wrong item, the C.B.C. is the only radio outlet in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories and in order to get information to my constituents I have to use this medium of communication. There are no private radio stations there. The Broadcasting Act lays down guideposts for the making of

political broadcasts over the C.B.C. Provision is made in the act for the broadcasting of communications of a political nature, whether by politicians or by newspapermen or by commentators. The routine for me and for my colleague, the member for the Northwest Territories, is to go to CBO in Ottawa and make a tape. That tape is then sent home to our constituencies and produced over the local network.

The regulations have always been such as to prohibit the production of political commentary of a partisan or controversial nature. How any politician or, indeed, any political commentator can say anything on the C.B.C. that is not controversial or of a partisan nature I do not know. I do not think it is possible. The issues of the day, the debates of the House of Commons, are all controversial. Otherwise our debates would not be debates.

On Thursday, December 12, just last week, I produced a tape at CBO at 10.45 in the morning. I was telephoned by one of the officials of the C.B.C. the following day but was not able to communicate with him again until December 17, five days later. At 4.30 p.m. I had a conversation with that official of the C.B.C. This was after I had received a letter from him dated December 17 and delivered to me by hand.

I am going to read the letter because it is important to the case I want to make, and the case I am going to make is to charge the C.B.C. with censorship of my broadcasts. One hon. member at the other end of the chamber said a moment ago it was a good thing that there should be no political interference with the C.B.C. With this I agree wholeheartedly. But conversely there should be no political interference by the C.B.C. with broadcasts which are made by commentators or members such as myself who have no other means of communicating with our constituents. The letter that was written to me on December 17 reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Nielsen:

I am writing you since we seem to have been unable to come together on the telephone. The matter I want to raise with you concerns the script of the report on the work of parliament which you recorded Friday last—

He is mistaken there, it was recorded on Thursday.

—produced by Gordon Bruce, the senior public affairs producer in Ottawa and to be broadcast on the Whitehorse station CFWH.

He is mistaken there because it goes over the whole Yukon network which consists of more than simply the Whitehorse station:

I felt it would be useful to talk to you as I think a confusion may have arisen about the purpose of the time provided over CFWH to report on the