

liament." I think the individual should resign from his position to leave himself free to do that.

Miss LaMarsh: Well ethically that may be quite correct, Mr. Leboe, but you have been around this world at least as long as I have and...

Mr. Leboe: Oh, longer.

Miss LaMarsh: ... You know it is very hard for people to give up their incomes and do that when they feel that they still have a useful role to play within the Corporation.

Mr. Prittie: Mr. Chairman, I intend to confine my remarks or questions to clause 2, Broadcasting policy for Canada. I would just make this observation. The Minister has revealed to us this morning the part she played in the von Thadden affair. I was a bit disappointed to hear it because I can think of other instances in the future where other minority groups in Canada might threaten some civil disturbance if particular persons were invited to the country. For example, if General de Gaulle were invited again I imagine there are parts of Canada, you know, from which might come threats of difficulties...

An hon. Member: Vancouver.

Mr. Prittie: No, not Vancouver particularly. I can think of this happening in so many instances that I would rather the Minister was not involved in that sort of thing and that it was left up to the Corporation.

Miss LaMarsh: Do you think, Mr. Prittie, that it would have been better if I had not brought this matter to the attention of the Corporation and that the day after an appearance in Toronto a few broken heads would not have been laid at my door?

Mr. Prittie: Yes, to answer you specifically I think it would have been better if you had not. As public officials they surely have the same access to information that you have.

Miss LaMarsh: He did not have.

Mr. Prittie: I beg your pardon?

Miss LaMarsh: He apparently had no such information. I am not so sure that you can assume that some public officials have access to or listen to information that may be readily available to those who will listen.

Mr. Prittie: Then they are the wrong public officials. However, back to clause 2.

Miss LaMarsh: It is not really a novel statement, Mr. Prittie.

Mr. Prittie: On clause 2, Mr. Chairman, I would agree with most of the statement about broadcasting policy. When we were debating second reading I expressed some uneasiness about clause 2(g) (iv), "Contribute to the development of national unity". I use the word "uneasiness" deliberately, because it is very difficult to be against something which deals with national unity; and I appreciate the Minister's comment that it was not designed for witch-hunting. I said it in the context of the very many speeches I have heard in this Committee and in the House about the operations of the French network at the present time?

I am still uneasy on this point, because national unity can, perhaps, descend to becoming national interest, and who determines what is national unity and what is national interest? We have had examples of ministerial interference in the past. Mr. Weir's book on broadcasting gives some very good examples.

I do not yet know the answer to this, but who is going to define national unity or national interest? I am rather afraid that if this is in the legislation people who are out to get those who, they think, are not contributing to national unity, or to national interest will have a stronger weapon in their hands.

It seems to me that subclause (d) of clause 2 would cover the situation:

the programming provided by the Canadian broadcasting system should be varied and comprehensive and should provide reasonable opportunity for the expression of conflicting views on matters of public controversy, and the programming provided by each broadcaster should be of a high standard, using predominantly Canadian resources;

That would apply to all broadcasters, and, it seems to me, would really be sufficient, without having subclause (iv) with its reference to national unity.

I would mention one other point. Subclause (iv), which refers to national unity, refers only to the national broadcasting service; that is, the CBC. If this is such an