

Supply—Secretary of State

it, even though he came in for some praise this evening.

He asked earlier to take part in a program, perhaps once every two years, as he said. I would suggest to the C.B.C. that he not be given free time on the program "Les affaires de l'État," but rather on the program "Les travaux et les jours," which deals with gardening, where he would feel completely at home. On the other hand, if he is allowed to appear on the program "Les affaires de l'État, it will be more free time granted to the Liberals. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières may protest as long as he wants but we know very well that it is not necessary to dig very deep before uncovering the ideas of the Liberals in him.

Now, let us go on to more serious matters.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege.

The hon. member for Lapointe is insulting me when he says: "Let us go on to more serious matters". He is suggesting that the member for Trois-Rivières is not serious in his remarks. I want to tell him that if I were growing flowers I would not grow evil-smelling or prickly flowers like cactus.

Mr. Grégoire: Cactuses grow in barren land, not in good land.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. I wonder whether we should not leave horticulture now to study the question before us.

Mr. Grégoire: That is what I wanted to do, Mr. Chairman, withdraw from growing flowers.

A few moments ago, Mr. Chairman, something about the C.B.C. impressed me particularly and I would like to give it my support: the member for Villeneuve said that all sensible ideologies, whatever they are, must be given free expression on the C.B.C., as long as this is done equitably and everyone is able to express his opinions, and there is no shedding of blood.

Mr. Chairman, one thing should be noted in all this. We would allow everyone to express their views, but this does not necessarily mean that, during a given period of time or during a same week, everyone will have the same opportunity to express their opinions. It comes by variable periods and cycles.

I remember quite well that, following the 1962 election, the Ralliement Créditiste of

which I was then a member was quite popular and was invited regularly by the C.B.C., as was the case following the 1963 election.

I remember also that the Conservatives had a lot of publicity, on the news, for two or three months before their convention and that they were given two full days during their convention.

Now, that the Liberal convention is forthcoming, we notice that the candidates to the leadership are given more publicity on the news and they will get even more as the date of the convention draws near. And that is only to be expected.

I noticed also that, during the crisis of February 19 last, when I held in this house the balance of power, the C.B.C., of course, wanted to know what side I would support. It did not last very long because at the end of two days, it was the hon. member for Villeneuve who took over. The television cameras started hounding him, and I find that perfectly normal, because his role became more important.

In 1962-1963, when the Créditistes had 30 members in this house with 26 from Quebec they had some weight and they were a source of news much more important than in 1958 when none had been elected or in 1968 when there is only 8 of them left. The thing is obvious.

Mr. Chairman, we must admit that these things can vary. If, after the next election, they are 50, as I hope, they will represent a greater source of news.

Mr. Caouette: Fifty Créditistes.

Mr. Grégoire: Fifty Créditistes, that is what I said. That will be a much greater source of public news. Sometimes it is the number, sometimes it is the occasion, that attracts the cameras.

I mentioned earlier the Conservative convention as well as the Liberal convention. In such a case it is the occasion which is the source of news and which brings the television cameras zeroing in on such group rather than on other groups. It is perfectly normal. As was the case in 1962, 1963, the Créditistes have had their day—they will probably have it again, I hope so for their sake we must not forget that at the present time, at the Quebec level, there is another group which is also newsworthy. It may not be because of the number of members represented in the house, since there is one here, and two in Quebec. It