

Supply—Secretary of State

Mr. Ricard: Also, I cannot dissociate my remarks from what the Minister of Transport said. But if the Secretary of State wants me to end my remarks because the Minister of Transport is not in the house, I am willing to do so in the spirit of Christmas.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, with more particular reference to the C.B.C., I must say that for once, in this matter of station CJBC in Toronto, the C.B.C. has taken a stand that is all to its credit. Contrary to my hon. friend for York-Humber and some of his colleagues on that side of the house who deeply regret the position taken by the C.B.C., I can only commend its officers for the action they have taken.

Mr. Chairman, I would be the last person to prevent English speaking Canadians in Quebec from having a radio station in their own language. I am sure to express here the opinion and the feelings of my compatriots in the province of Quebec when I say they would be willing to take measures of elementary justice for the minorities in the province as they do in the field of education, and as the C.B.C. has given us an example.

I am amazed that not one Liberal member from the province of Quebec saw fit to rise and support the decision taken by C.B.C. concerning CJBC station. It is true that the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) rose to ask whether a former Conservative member represented the opinion of that party in the house, but if I wanted to be sarcastic and if you gave me permission, I would ask him immediately if he was expressing the views and especially the opinion of his compatriots and colleagues in the Liberal party when he said that Canada should not be governed by a foreign queen.

Those are the few remarks I had to make. Before resuming my seat, I should like to say that we had to wait for the Conservative party to come to power, after 22 years of Liberal administration, to restore effectively some rights which were ignored by those who nowadays claim all over the place to be the champions of human liberties.

[*Text*]

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege, the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot has just claimed that I deplored the introduction of the French tongue into the radio world of Toronto. I do not deplore the introduction of the French tongue into the radio world of Toronto. I have a married daughter who lives in Quebec city and I visit her frequently. I stated that I deplored the conversion of CJBC from English speaking to French speaking. I stated that French should have the same opportunity to run a private

[*Mr. Pickersgill.*]

station in Toronto which would broadcast in French in the same way as the English station in Quebec city is owned by English people and broadcasts in English. But I did not deplore the introduction of French to Toronto.

Mr. Nowlan: Before the minister finalizes discussion on these estimates, I should like to say that I have sympathy with him because from time to time I sat where he is now sitting and listened to some of the criticisms, some warranted, some unwarranted, some abusive, of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I do not have to apologize for the fact that I am one of those who have a tremendous respect and admiration for the corporation. I know it has made its share of mistakes, as have all organizations. But it is a corporation of which all Canadians can be proud and without which we would have much more difficulty in maintaining the unity in the country which is essential.

I am not going to make a speech, but I want to ask a minor question to preserve this unity. I am somewhat dismayed when I hear the seven o'clock news. This is a very picaresque point I am making amongst all the other weighty matters which have been discussed, but it is one in which the minister is interested, coming from the easternmost province of Canada. I am somewhat irritated at night when listening to the news broadcast at seven o'clock. We find out what the weather is in Ontario. We find out what the weather is in Quebec. We find out what the weather is in Louisiana and what the temperature is in Texas. We know what is going on in Florida and we know whether they are skiing, or whatever it is, in British Columbia. But the announcer jumps from Montreal to Newfoundland and never one word about the maritime provinces.

I do not have to emphasize to this committee that there are several maritimers living in and around this area of, shall we say, upper Canada. Without the maritimers we would never have had an upper Canada. I am not criticizing the minister for this because I raised the matter, though in a very low voice, when I sat in his place. I was defending the C.B.C. from so many attacks at that time that I did not very well have the opportunity to urge my own problems. Now, being an independent observer, I am asking the minister whether he will emphasize to his officials of the C.B.C., casually at any rate, that they tell us whether there is sunshine in Halifax or thunder in Saint John, or what the situation is, as well as telling us what is going on in Tennessee and Louisiana.

Mr. Pickersgill: I can tell the hon. gentleman that it was snowing this morning in Digby-Annapolis-Kings, because I happened