

objections have been completed we will go on to the objections, if there are any remaining, from British Columbia, followed by the objections relating to the province of Saskatchewan, then Manitoba and finally the remaining objections concerning the province of Quebec.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN CURRENT DISPUTE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister tell the house what has been done in the tranquilization processes he has been called upon to utilize since he received the authority of the broadcasting committee in connection with the dispute between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the producers of "This Hour Has Seven Days"?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have received a copy of the report of the committee of the house dealing with this matter, and have been giving consideration to the suggestion made in that report. I have also received a copy of a telegram sent this morning by the president of the Association of Television Producers and Directors. It is addressed to the Prime Minister, and it informs me that the producers will abide by the expressed will of the parliamentary committee on broadcasting and will suspend their decision—quoting from the telegram—

—to recommend a complete withdrawal of our members services not later than ten p.m. eastern daylight time Sunday, May 1, provided the officers of the corporation suspend their decision in the matter of "Seven Days" posts pending mediation.

I am awaiting, Mr. Speaker, the reaction of the management of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to this telegram before I make any decision as to whether the government should intervene and, if so, in what way.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Would the Prime Minister say whether he communicated directly with the president of the C.B.C. in this connection and what reaction, if any, he received?

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not communicated directly with the president on

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this matter. I think I will await the president's reaction to this telegram. If I have not heard from him by this afternoon I will get in touch with him.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): A supplementary question. I think it would be helpful if the Prime Minister could explain what he has in mind in using the expression "good offices of the government" in relation to this present dispute. What does the phrase "good offices of the government" mean?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the phrase "good offices" means using your good offices in an effort to be helpful to both sides and bring the dispute to an end.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Could we be assured that in the exercise of these good offices any mediator appointed would be chosen from outside either the ministerial ranks or the public service?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, if the government decides to intervene at all in this matter—and the government has to be very careful indeed in intervening in the affairs of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—but if it is decided that government intervention will be helpful, I would like to consult with both sides as to the form which that intervention should take.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RHODESIA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CURRENT TALKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to ask him whether he or the government are being kept informed of the talks that are taking place in Salisbury, Rhodesia, between the government of the United Kingdom and the rebel government of Rhodesia. Would he also be good enough to inform us whether these talks are confined to the government of the U.K. or whether the commonwealth sanctions committee or the commonwealth general secretary, Arnold Smith, are parties to the conversations now taking place.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, before I reply to the question may I direct your attention and that of the members of this house to the