

**Mr. Stafford:** Do you not feel that that press release demonstrated an irresponsibility to a minister of the Crown?

**The Chairman:** Mr. Stafford, I wish you would direct your line of questioning to the Bill.

**Mr. Stafford:** My line of questioning has to do with the powers of the directors. Is it not true that the CBC has been criticized on many occasions? Has anything like this ever happened before, where the CBC issued a press release, going so far as it did on this particular occasion? Is it an isolated occasion; if it is not, when else did it happen?

**The Chairman:** We are not here to investigate press releases; we are here to examine this Bill, Mr. Stafford.

**Mr. Stafford:** Do you mean to say that the powers of the directors have no part of this Bill, Mr. Chairman.

**The Chairman:** If you have a question about the powers of the directors as proposed in this Bill then ask it.

**Mr. Stafford:** That is what I am trying to ask. Did they go beyond what this Bill would allow in issuing a press release that shows a lack of responsibility to the people of Canada through its elected representatives?

**Miss LaMarsh:** I think that is a legitimate question.

**Mr. Stafford:** I think it would be. Is this sort of thing going to keep up? Does this new Bill start something like this, that the Directors can sit down and say that the elected representatives of the people cannot even discuss management, in view of all the criticism that has gone on almost every week in Parliament since World War II.

**Mr. McCleave:** Perhaps there should be a section that says they cannot issue press releases.

**The Chairman:** Well, that question is clear enough.

**Mr. Stafford:** If it is not I can put it again.

**The Chairman:** Does the Bill prevent it?

**Miss LaMarsh:** The Bill does not prevent it but clearly it does not contemplate that. To answer the other part of the question, whether there ever has been anything like this, I remember reading about...

**Mr. Stafford:** Excuse me. Did you say that this was the first time?

**Miss LaMarsh:** I remember reading about an altercation between the first Chairman of the CBC and the minister of the day, who I believe was C. D. Howe, but that is all I remember about it.

**An hon. Member:** Who was the first Chairman of the CBC?

**An hon. Member:** Mr. Brockington.

**Mr. Macaluso:** Do not even ask.

• (5:00 p.m.)

**Miss LaMarsh:** I do not think under this set of circumstances that anybody is likely to win.

**Mr. Stafford:** I maintain that what they did was entirely beyond their powers and functions as directors of a corporation owned by the taxpayers of Canada. The members of Parliament are the elected representatives of the people, and they in fact went much too far in issuing this press release. If you do not want to answer it, all right, but that is what I wanted an answer on. In view of the fact that the CBC has been criticized by the press, the people, M.P.'s, the Glassco Commission, the Fowler Committee, the President's study committee and everything else, do you say that outside of the one incident you mentioned you have never heard of criticism like this before against M.P.s or a minister of the crown who is responsible?

**Miss LaMarsh:** No, I do not remember ever being told of or having read of it, and I have read everything I can on the history of Canadian broadcasting. Every set of circumstances is different.

**The Chairman:** Do you have any further questions, Mr. Stafford?

**Mr. Stafford:** I have more, but perhaps I had better pass and let someone else continue.

(Translation)

**Mr. Berger:** Mr. Chairman, it is a funny question, I feel like the only soldier who is out of step. I find it difficult to follow and adapt myself to your way of proceeding. We are here to study Bill C-163, a very interesting Bill. We have talked of national unity, we are now at the end of the Bill, we are talking of interpretation, section of the governor in council's instruction of cable televi-