

*Motions for Papers*

for a given number of programs is a matter to be considered. However, the amount paid a particular individual concerns only him and his employer.

I would not want to have the responsibility of setting these rates, and I know that the C.B.C. has a difficult job in deciding upon rates for different people, depending upon how much they are in demand. For that reason I presume they would not want to release these individual figures. I believe these figures in question are too complex to establish the efficiency or otherwise of the operations of the C.B.C., though I concede it is the responsibility of parliament to ascertain that the taxpayer's money is well spent and that all Canadians receive at least minimum television and radio coverage.

**Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I am a bit hesitant about entering this very lively debate on a most important subject because I happen, just by accident, to have a personal relationship with one of the two people who are mentioned in this request for documents that the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) is putting forth. I refer to Dr. John. T. Saywell.

When I was attending the University of Toronto between 1961 and 1963, Professor Saywell was my professor in Canadian history. He was also for a short period my thesis director. Unfortunately our relationship was broken off when he accepted a promotion and moved over to York University to become dean of arts, a position which he now holds. During the period when I was attending Professor Saywell's classes, I found him a very invigorating teacher, an excellent seminar leader, and a man with a most interesting knowledge of Canadian history. I should say, too, that he and I did not always agree. I can recall some very interesting conversations which took place in those seminars concerning the relative merits of various policies and ideas of the government during the period 1961-63. I suppose in retrospect, Mr. Speaker, that three year period was one of the most exciting politically that we have ever had in Canada.

The point at issue here is a motion for the production of certain papers, specifically documents outlining the amount of moneys paid to Professor Saywell and Mr. Ricker by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, documents that set out in detail the amount of such moneys paid these individuals over a period of time.

The position that some members of parliament have taken is that the C.B.C. should not have to provide parliament with this type of information. My understanding of the way parliament operates is that other crown corporations must provide information of this type to parliament, when it is requested. I have heard from officials of the C.B.C. that there is no objection to providing this kind of information to the House of Commons if the House of Commons asks for it. But these officials do have objection to providing this kind of information when it is asked for by an individual member. They make a distinction between the rights of the House of Commons as a whole and the rights of the private member.

It seems to me that some consideration could be given to this point of view. The justification for the stand of the C.B.C. or for its point of view is simply that if the C.B.C. were to give in and to provide this information at the request of a member of parliament, then because of the nature of the operations of the C.B.C., they would be completely inundated with requests for this type of information. We have only to recognize what happens to members of parliament when the C.B.C. comes up with a juicy bit of information which does not please members of parliament, or broadcasts a program which does not please them. We all know the type of reaction we get from members of parliament. The feeling of the C.B.C. is that if they were to provide this type of information to individual members, the C.B.C. would lose its freedom of expression. They would not dare to go into controversial areas; they would not try to illuminate the dark areas of our society; they would be nothing less than a sounding board for the preservation of the status quo in Canada.

To develop that argument a little further, Mr. Speaker, one of the difficulties that we have in making a judgment of the C.B.C. is that we have precious little to measure it against; for the role that we have set out for the C.B.C. is quite different from the role the C.T.V. has taken unto itself, or the role in which the American networks function. Further, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there is a great deal of similarity between the operations of the C.B.C. and the operations of the B.B.C. in Great Britain.

One of the problems that we face is this: How do we know we are getting our money's worth in this particular example the hon. member for York-Humber has