

Supply—Secretary of State

signed on June 26, 1962, as expected by the former government and the authorities of the city of Montreal, as well as by the senior officials of the C.B.C. and the Central Housing and Mortgage Corporation, the latter having cleared the land.

In view of the fact that all parties have fulfilled their obligations up to now, I wonder why the present government keeps the contractors waiting so long, as they would be interested in great development projects in that part of Montreal, thus increasing the economic growth of the whole city.

I wonder if the minister could not help us—

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member allow a question?

Mr. Valade: Certainly, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member say that not knowing exactly the starting date for construction will delay the construction or the development planned in the city of Montreal? On the other hand, if we are certain that Place des Ondes will be erected on the site described by the hon. member for Sainte-Marie, if the C.B.C. authorities assure us of the implementation of this project, I cannot see why the contractors concerned cannot proceed with their project.

The hon. member insists on an exact date. I think this has nothing to do with implementation of the project.

I feel that my hon. friend is right in insisting on the implementation of this project. Besides, he should be aware of all the pressure applied by the members for Montreal Island on the government and on the C.B.C. authorities in this regard, and I know also that the hon. member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Rinfret) is also interested in seeing that project carried out—

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. In my remarks yesterday, I was referring to the hon. member for Saint-Jacques, and the acting chairman of the committee interrupted me to say that I could not do so. So, I do not see why the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) would be allowed to make the same remarks I was not allowed to make myself.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that the remarks of the hon. member for Saint-Denis should be examined. However, I do not think the matter is very important and the hon. member seems to forget that the city of Montreal has presented an ultimatum to the present government, because the municipal budget for

[Mr. Valade.]

the current fiscal year depends on the government's decision in this respect. If the city of Montreal has some plans concerning the site, it must wait if it does not know the final decision of the government.

On the other hand, the contractors who are getting used to delays in official decisions will not commit themselves to undertake these major projects without knowing exactly what the decisions are.

I believe that this project will be carried out, but when? In one year, five years, ten years, 20 years? That is the question, and until the government makes a formal decision, until they tell us that this project will be carried out within a certain reasonable length of time, I believe that investors will hesitate to invest any money in this area of the city of Montreal and will not be able to make a definite decision.

● (4:20 p.m.)

The chairman of the Montreal executive council, in reply to my friend from Saint-Denis, had made the following remark when the then Secretary of State visited Montreal and had just announced that the government had decided to postpone for a year the execution of the contract.

For the information of my good friend and as can be found in *La Presse* of September 14, 1965, Mr. Saulnier would have said at the press conference of the former Secretary of State, after his statement at city hall, and I quote:

He reminded Mr. Lamontagne that official statements like the one made today about the projects of the C.B.C. in Montreal are starting to become a fine tradition.

Those are comments of the chairman of the Montreal executive council, who has the responsibility of looking after execution of the project.

I find that, in spite of my requests for information in this house, in an effort to discharge my responsibilities to the riding directly concerned in this endeavour, the minister persists in refusing to give the people any assurance that the project will be implemented within a certain time limit. I fail to see why the Secretary of State could not commit herself to the extent of promising a statement on the matter within the next few weeks, or possibly a month, so that by that time we might at long last know the decision of the government.

Should the project be postponed for a year, I would consider it a great disadvantage but