

Supply—Secretary of State

the public has not been convinced of the need for this change. They do not understand the issue or the reasoning behind it.

For these reasons I would urge upon the minister as strongly as I can the proposal that the board of broadcast governors should hold a hearing into this whole matter. The board should undertake to have this whole matter reviewed and to let the C.B.C. come forward and make its case over again—to bring forward all the technical information which the rest of us must have if we are to justify the change.

When this matter first came up on December 12, I placed a lengthy question on the order paper, question No. 1,868. Had I been able to secure answers to that question quickly I would have been in a position to discuss this subject with the dozens and dozens of people who are continually calling every week end, wanting to know why this change is being brought about. But because we do not have this information we are not in a position to discuss this issue in a rational way with our constituents. That is why I feel the only way of preventing this thing from blowing up into a major issue between English speaking and French speaking Canadians is to have the whole question reopened by the board of broadcast governors so that all of us who are interested may give and receive information. Then, perhaps, if there is more light, there may be less heat generated. I do not think this is a subject on which we should all get up on white horses and make inflammatory speeches. There is too much wild talk about it in the city of Toronto at the present time and I do not think any of us have the necessary technical information with which to deal with it.

We all recognize the legitimate desire of the bilingual and French people in our area to have a station of some kind, but many of us are convinced that there are other technical solutions possible. If the corporation can convince us that there are no other solutions they will have a strong case, but until then the whole issue will be misinterpreted and misunderstood. Already we are getting ridiculous inflammatory documents mailed to us. Some are so ridiculous one hesitates to make them public. But they are symptomatic of what I mentioned in the beginning, and this is a misunderstanding of French Canada that exists in the minds of a lot of English Canadians. This misunderstanding is growing day by day because the voices of reason and the voices of moderation are not being heard. All that is getting through are the wild, extreme statements, and this is stirring up our people. While we have heard a lot about the rights of the French people, I want to make a plea for the rights of the English. We want

[Mr. Scott.]

to understand the problems of the French Canadians. We want to be sympathetic to their needs in our area. But I plead with the government not to let this issue sit because it will not just sit still. It will get worse and worse. More inflammatory remarks will be made and misunderstanding will continue to grow.

I hope the minister will very seriously consider whatever approaches it is proper for him to make to have the board of broadcast governors announce soon that they intend to open up the whole matter and rehear it. As a matter of fact, this suggestion was made when the initial decision was made to have some programming. At that time Carlyle Allison, I believe, made the suggestion that there might be further hearings in the event the decision for French programming was taken very much farther, and I think the answer he got at that time was that there would be if the board desired. I think this is an appropriate case for the board to reopen the matter, so that those of us who are vitally interested in it can get all the necessary information that is needed and, more importantly, so that the English and French people in Toronto will understand each other's problems, try to meet each other's needs and get to understand each other's difficulties before this thing gets blown out of all proportion.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron: Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to make a few remarks on the subject discussed by the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott). In my opinion one should refrain as much as possible from delivering inflammatory speeches on this subject, especially since everybody has been hoping for a few years that some tolerance would be shown to the different ethnic groups of the country.

Allow me to quote from a report of the C.B.C. which is self-explanatory and which has been reproduced in the newspapers today. On the front page of *Le Droit*, under the title: "The record of station CJBC", we find this:

The broadcasting of French programs within the transmitting zone of CJBC is in the national interest and in keeping with the mandate entrusted to the C.B.C. by parliament.

This shows that the matter has not been under consideration only for the past week. The whole principle is almost in effect at present.

The article goes on to say:

The C.B.C. has been considering for several years the means of providing this service, as recommended, besides, by the Fowler commission in 1957.

So, that problem was studied almost six years ago by the Fowler commission, which