

Farm Machinery

informed, while three quarters of the news heard on *The National* deal with foreign subjects. This is how they forget to tell the Canadian people what is going on in their own country.

Mr. Speaker, we should use the media available to us. Each week, the CBC should put aside one hour's broadcasting time and divide it equally among the four federal political parties. We could then inform the people of what goes on in the House and we might even grant to the public an additional hour of broadcasting time to enlighten Parliament on public opinion. But the government is taking no steps in that direction. We are ill informed by the government's fault and Information Canada will not remedy the situation if we continue with the same methods.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said:

—the primary responsibility for conveying to the government the views and attitudes of Canadians has always remained and always should remain with members of Parliament.

If it remains with Parliament, let us start by respecting the members of Parliament who have representations and suggestions to offer the government.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that Information Canada will become a propaganda agency for the government, and this offers some danger. Organizations like the CBC should serve to inform the public and the government.

A few minutes ago, I suggested that one hour per week be put at the disposal of the political parties and not 6 minutes and 50 seconds every two months, whereas one hour is allotted to Robert Charlebois, who keeps cursing while he is on. Since all kinds of European socialists and communists are invited as guests on CBC programs, should not this federal agency serve the needs of the people who pay its operation costs?

Let us ask the CBC to respect not only the government but also the Canadian parliament, which actually represents the population. That organization could work as a link between the public, that is the people we represent, and the duties we have assumed towards them.

[English]

AGRICULTURE**STATEMENT ON FURTHER REPORTS BY BARBER COMMISSION ON FARM MACHINERY**

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, to ensure that there may be no misunderstanding, I wish to clarify the timing

[Mr. Caouette.]

of the presentation of the report of the Royal Commission on Farm Machinery to which I referred in my reply to the hon. member for Lisgar in *Hansard* of February 5, page 3236. The findings of the commissioner dealing with costs and arrangements in respect of services and repair parts will not be the subject of a separate report but will be dealt with in the commissioner's final report expected during the late summer.

In so far as combine prices are concerned, this matter was dealt with on pages 30 and 32 of the Special Report on Prices of Tractors and Combines in Canada and Other Countries, which was tabled on January 16.

There is a further study, which I inadvertently referred to as a report, being prepared for the commission on farmers' attitudes to farm machinery purchases, which will be released by the commission within the next few days. Hon. members will be aware that these studies prepared for the commission are listed on the daily check lists they receive from the Queen's Printer and can be secured from this source.

● (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, the statement made by the minister today in his amiable and frank fashion is not quite as innocent as it may appear to be. It is, Mr. Speaker, a sad admission on the part of the government that after years of investigation and the expenditure of millions of dollars the government has not yet reached any conclusion or formed any policies with regard to what action to take on a problem that has caused a great deal of concern both to the farmers and machinery dealers of this nation.

Mr. Baldwin: What else is new?

Mr. Danforth: What this statement does, Mr. Speaker, is in effect to buy still more time for the government at a terrible cost to the farmers of this nation.

Mr. Baldwin: And to the taxpayers.

Mr. Danforth: The minister stated that the final report is not expected until the late summer. This simply means that one more season will have passed and the government will have done nothing. There is no excuse for this lack of action, Mr. Speaker, especially in view of the fact that over a year ago at an agricultural congress called by this same government enough of the facts were reported by the commissioner to indicate in no uncertain