

Supply—C.B.C.

and whether he is aware, for example, that she was again fired last Thursday night, after being back for only one day, because of her union activity. What steps does the minister propose to take to see that the night cleaning staff of the C.B.C. under this contract are dealt with fairly and equitably by the contractor?

Mr. McCann: Mr. Chairman, this has to do with what are called the cleaner contracts at the C.B.C. buildings and offices in Montreal. The contract was given out by tender to a private operator, and it is pretty much up to him to pay for the service. I presume unions and the like would insist that he pay the current rate for that particular type of help. It is not a matter that I am thoroughly conversant with, but I assure the hon. gentleman that the C.B.C. will look into it to see that the terms of the contract are carried out and that justice is done to all concerned.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Mr. Chairman, on that point, it is a little more than looking into it and seeing that the terms of the contract are carried out. It is my understanding that the government of Canada, or any of its agencies, should not be a party to agreements with people who do not follow the regular and proper labour practices in this country. If the minister finds that this contractor has broken the federal labour laws in any way, will steps be taken to cancel the contract?

Mr. McCann: I am informed that negotiations are going on right at the moment with reference to the trouble.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): Negotiations? What kind of negotiations? Negotiations leading to the cancellation of the contract?

Mr. McCann: Well, discussions are going on between the C.B.C. and the contractor, and discussions are going on between the union and the contractor.

Mr. Lennard: Mr. Chairman, a few moments ago the minister said that they even keep track of the expenses of the board of governors. What did the board of governors cost the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation during the past year?

Mr. McCann: They are paid an honorarium of \$50 a meeting and their out of pocket expenses.

Mr. Lennard: What would their out of pocket expenses be?

Mr. McCann: It varies. They come from as far away as British Columbia and Newfoundland. The board of governors is made

[Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace).]

up of gentlemen who come from various sections of the country. They come here, or they attend meetings wherever they are held. Their fees are very small.

Mr. Lennard: Are they paid \$50 a meeting, or is it for the day or for several days?

Mr. McCann: It means a three-day meeting. They are the poorest paid of any people who work for the government.

Mr. Lennard: They should not be paid any more. There are only two or three, outside of the chairman, who know B from a bull's foot. There are only one or two on the board of governors who really know their business. Apart from those members, the others are not worth \$50 a day.

Mr. McCann: I cannot agree with that.

Mr. Lennard: I am telling you.

Mr. McCann: If you look over the board of governors you will see that they are outstanding people.

Mr. Lennard: Outstanding Liberals in different parts of the country.

Mr. McCann: No; we pay no attention to their politics. Would you call Professor Corry, Professor Steel or Mr. Pouliot, of Quebec, or Mr. Crawford of Toronto, or Mr. Montgomery, of Edmonton, or Mr. Gervin of Vancouver, politicians? I think we are very fortunate in our selection.

Mr. Lennard: You have left out several.

Mr. McCann: Yes, I have.

Mr. Lennard: Purposely.

Mr. McCann: I do not remember all of them. I have named six or eight of them. As far as I know, they are outstanding men who are giving good service to the country for nothing.

Mr. Lennard: What?

Mr. McCann: What do they get out of it? Does the hon. member work for three days for \$50?

Mr. Lennard: We do not know the half of it.

Mr. McCann: I know more than you do; I know the other half, anyway.

Mr. Blackmore: Mr. Chairman, just before we wind up this discussion I should like to say a parting word or two.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Blackmore: Yes, I know there are thousands of words that ought to be said, because your very children's lives are in danger, and everything you hold dear. Let us not forget that.