

*Statement on Educational Broadcasting***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR  
THIS DAY**

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know an invitation has been issued for a ceremony at six o'clock this evening, on the occasion of the unveiling of a portrait of Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson. I have had certain consultations and I believe there will be general agreement, on account of this occasion, that the house make an order dispensing with private members' hour for this evening, on the understanding that all motions will retain their place and that the day will not be lost in respect of private members' hour.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Translation]

**TELEVISION****ANNOUNCEMENT OF TASK FORCE ON  
EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING**

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, last Monday, in response to an inquiry from the hon. member for Selkirk, (Mr. Schreyer), I said that I hoped to be able to make a statement on educational broadcasting this week, and if the house is agreeable, I should like to do so now. However, I must apologize for having sent a bit late that statement to the leaders of the opposition as a result of a misunderstanding.

[English]

In view of the importance attached by provincial governments to the development of educational broadcasting facilities, I should like to inform the house that the government intends to introduce legislation, as early as possible in the current session, to establish a Canadian educational broadcasting agency for this purpose.

A task force is to be established immediately, which will include representatives of the Privy Council office, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, the post office—which now includes the core of the proposed department of communications—the department of the Secretary of State, and others, to advise the government on a number of important aspects of this problem, including the details of the proposed legislation and the method of financing the new agency. The task force will ascertain provincial requirements and priorities for the provision of

[Mr. Stanfield.]

facilities, and will carry out research and planning to ensure the most rational development of these facilities in relation to the country's broadcasting and other communications systems, with particular attention to the rapid pace of technological developments. Technical advice from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will be sought when appropriate.

The task force will also consider and advise on the most practical means of satisfying the most urgent provincial requirements pending the enactment of new legislation. In this connection the government will be prepared, if necessary, to consider issuing a formal direction to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, under section 39(2) of the Broadcasting Act, to provide required educational broadcasting facilities on an interim basis, which would be transferred to the new agency when it has been established.

[Translation]

I should like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that these decisions are consistent with the present apportionment of powers under the constitution which gives the provinces full authority in the field of education whereas communication systems, including broadcasting, fall within the jurisdiction of the federal government.

It is proposed that the Canadian Radio-Television Commission will issue to the agency that will be set up, broadcasting licences to be used in connection with provincially-approved programs. This arrangement will enable the provinces to retain their basic responsibility with regard to the preparation and production of programs. However, since the actual broadcasting of these programs remains a responsibility of the federal government, there will be no need to change the long-standing federal policy of not issuing broadcasting licences to the provinces or their agents.

[English]

The task force which will be established to assist in the implementation of this new program will have as one of its primary tasks to pursue earlier discussions with the provinces to work out the details of the program, including the extent and timing of the federal government's financial participation, which will be limited to the support of its own responsibilities under the proposed arrangement.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, this is obviously a