

very clear exposition he has given of this appropriation bill. He did one the other day, an interim supply bill—so this is really his second run at the appropriation bills—and he did it so competently that I was a little afraid to venture back into the field. I do thank him for the care and attention he has given to it. I know that he will have some remarks to make in concluding the debate.

I feel very remiss, honourable senators, in saying at this late date something I should have said at the beginning, namely, how glad I am and all of us are to see the Leader of the Opposition back in his seat after a very useful and, I am sure, most interesting sojourn at the meeting of the NATO Parliamentarians Organization.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): It has a new name now, but it is basically the same organization that Senator Beaubien from Montreal and I attended a number of times. I must say that I have a very soft spot in my heart for the work of the NATO Parliamentarians, and I was delighted that this time the Senate was so ably represented by Senator Brooks, Senator Aird and Senator Lefrançois. I hope that in due time we will hear more about the meeting from all of these honourable gentlemen.

May I now deal with the points raised by Senator Grosart. Last night he asked me if some practical steps could not be taken with reference to the questions that were raised at that time about the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He repeated that request today. I have given it some thought and have had some discussions, and I think something must be done.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): I think something should be done now. I cannot speak highly enough of the fact that Senator Grosart and other honourable senators, privately, in writing and verbally, have said to me that this is not a party matter. The plain fact is that it is not even a governmental matter. Senator Grosart has put his finger on it. It is a matter for Parliament. We keep reminding ourselves in this chamber from time to time that we are an integral part of Parliament. If we are, not only have we the privileges of parliamentarians and of Parliament, but we also have the responsibilities.

The control of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation resides in Parliament, and if things are to be done about the C.B.C., parliamentarians must act. Without wanting to generate a lot of heat, but also attempting to introduce some light upon the subject—and there was occasion for the heat just as there is now a need for the light—I would like to make the following practical suggestion. The main and supplementary Estimates thus far tabled are before our Finance Committee. Senator Walker has said that we have a very able chairman. We also have very able members on that committee. I would like to suggest that at this time, during this session, when it is possible for the committee to make suitable arrangements, that they first of all ascertain the facts by summoning to that committee, as they are entitled to do, officials from the C.B.C.

Allegations were made last night by myself and by others about facts. I confess that mine were allegations based only upon information received, but I would like to see this kind of information tested. And I need not repeat the statements I made. I must confess that it may be very unusual for a minister of the Crown to speak out on the floor of Parliament the way I did last night or do now, but I do so because I feel that it is a parliamentarian's responsibility.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Having obtained the facts about the chain of responsibility and where the weaknesses lie—and I do not think it would be an unduly difficult task with the kind of committee we have—I would like to see that committee take one further step, if possible, and arrange for a private viewing for the committee of the program of which we complained. And I would like to see an analysis and comment made both by those ultimately responsible and those immediately responsible, and let them be examined. I do not say that this could be done tomorrow, but in answer to Senator Benidickson may I say that the work of the Finance Committee continues until its final report is made each session to Parliament. I would like to see this done in a methodical way at the appropriate time, but I do say the sooner the better.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: In that connection, after obtaining the facts, what then could we suggest should be done?