

Supply—Secretary of State

which His Honour took exception. It also includes one very minor subclause of a very technical nature, which I would have moved in committee, which does not affect in any way the substance of the bill.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, we agree, provided the bill receives only first reading this evening.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sharp moves for leave to present Bill C-208 to amend the Income Tax Act, based on the income tax resolution concurred in by the house on Friday last. Shall the minister have leave to introduce said bill?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Sharp moved the first reading of the bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Starr: On division.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time? At the next sitting of the house?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister when copies of the revised bill will be in our boxes?

Mr. Fairweather: The government is retreating but maintaining the initiative.

Mr. MacEachen: It shows how flexible we are. Copies of the bill will be in hon. members' boxes tomorrow morning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Is the Chair to assume that the house will now go into committee of supply?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE
Board of Broadcast Governors—
1c. Salaries and other expenses, \$35,000.

The Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply supplementary estimates (C), 1967-68, Department of Secretary of State,

[Mr. Sharp.]

Board of Broadcast Governors, vote 1c. Shall vote No. 1c carry?

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make just a few brief remarks on this item. It would seem to me that the members of the new Board of Broadcast Governors, when they have had an opportunity to get settled, will realize that they should do something to correct what has gone on of late on the C.B.C. television news and news commentaries.

In the last few weeks there have been people in the country who have said they have seen nothing but a complete take-over by the government of the C.B.C. news media, and that the C.B.C. news has become little more than a government brainwashing operation. We saw a good sample of it recently, shortly after February 19, when the Prime Minister returned to Canada from Jamaica and appeared on C.B.C. television. The information that a number of us have been given is that the Prime Minister went on television that evening on the understanding that no other person would be allowed to go on the television after he appeared that evening, and that no commentary would be permitted on his remarks. When one hears these observations made by those who are in a position to know, it becomes very alarming indeed.

As most of us know, television is one of the most powerful media of information to influence the public. In recent weeks, within the space of three days, through the medium of television the names of persons little known to the general public became household words. I believe the new Board of Broadcast Governors should ensure that every effort is made to see that there is no interference by the government in office with the news media. Not only that, but they should ensure that there must appear to be no interference from within the news media. This is very important.

In addition to that, in the house and in other places, the suggestion has been made in the last few months that there has been some political interference with the C.B.C. I do not wish to rehash what has already been said in the house on other occasions, but I would certainly hope that the new Board of Broadcast Governors will take the greatest care to make sure that there is even no appearance of any control of the news media by the government, or indeed by any political party. I hope the new president of the C.B.C. will bear this in mind when he assumes his new duties.