

Toronto are getting a French radio station and he proposed that a full inquiry be held on this question. What surprises me, however, Mr. Chairman—

[Text]

Mr. Scott: I rise on a question of personal privilege, Mr. Chairman. I know the hon. member wants to be fair. I do not think anything I said deplored the request or the need of the French speaking people in Toronto for a radio outlet. Quite the contrary; I was most emphatic in reaffirming their rights. All I was trying to point out was that we are not convinced this is the best way to serve what may be a very legitimate and laudable purpose.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I think I was stating the position in perhaps a less controversial way than it was put by the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Scott: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, we should not continue with the sort of one-sided presentation of these difficulties that we are experiencing. All the hon. member is doing with this one-sided, prejudiced view is making the whole problem twice as difficult to solve.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Ricard: Well, Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I think the hon. member for Danforth has given a fair explanation to the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot, and I am sure he will be willing to accept that explanation.

An hon. Member: Withdraw.

Mr. Ricard: I have nothing to withdraw, Mr. Chairman, because I am just expressing my own opinion. I think I have as much right to my opinion as the hon. member who made that remark from his seat.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Danforth did not, for instance, request that an investigation be made when a permit was refused for the operation of a French language radio station in the city of Ottawa. If the hon. member for Danforth was so anxious to see the French speaking Canadians get a fair deal, he should, at that time, have made the remarks we heard from him today.

I am taking part in this debate mostly on account of the mitigated statements made by the hon. member for York-Humber, more particularly those he made outside the house.

As I said before, I wish also to talk about some remarks made by the Secretary of State. As reported in *Le Devoir* of December 20, 1963, the Secretary of State said:

Supply—Secretary of State

In Ottawa, the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) refused to say in the house whether or not the Liberal members from the Toronto area had made representations to the government to the effect that CJBC should not become a French language station. The minister had just stated that such representations had been made to him verbally.

Mr. Chairman, those remarks of the Secretary of State prove without any doubt that there is conflict of opinions and that there is opposition, even within the ranks of the Liberal party, to the granting of a French language station to the people of Toronto.

Mr. Chairman, this brings me to tell you and my hon. friends in the house that I am surprised to see that the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), who claims he wants to promote the cause of biculturalism in the country, was not able to convince his own supporters of the necessity of the French fact. If we consider the behaviour of certain influential members of the cabinet, it would seem in fact that they took actions that were prejudicial to the ethnic group to which I belong.

How can we explain the refusal of the Minister of Transport (Mr. McIlraith) to grant a licence for the operation of a private French language station in Ottawa, when that licence had been granted by the B.B.G.

Why, this ill-will?

[Text]

An hon. Member: A controversial opinion.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I have raised a point of order yet in the whole course of the consideration of the estimates. But it does not seem to me quite reasonable that the hon. gentleman, who had a perfect opportunity to raise this matter when the estimates of the Minister of Transport were before the committee, should raise it now. This matter has nothing at all to do with the C.B.C., which the committee is discussing at this time under my estimates. The Minister of Transport is not even in the chamber. I do think there should be a little reason in this matter. If the hon. gentleman wants to complain about me, let him complain to his heart's content; but if he wants to discuss the conduct of the Minister of Transport, that should have been done when the estimates of the minister were under consideration.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, with due respect to the opinion the Secretary of State has just given, I think I am in order since permits for the exploitation of radio stations come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Pickersgill: But the minister's estimates are not before the committee now.