

**Mr. Stafford:** Did I understand you to say, when speaking of the producer of the former Seven Days show, that it is difficult to keep producers in line? I did not quite understand what you meant?

**Miss LaMarsh:** Well, it is difficult to keep Canadians from going to their MPs whether they work inside the Corporation or outside. I think that is a right which ought not to be alienated, and I do not think it can be alienated by legislation. These are pretty attractive people and they get to know politicians very quickly, and they are very persuasive.

**Mr. Reid:** Is that a comment on politicians?

**Miss LaMarsh:** They get to know politicians because they think they are such great movers and shakers. I think, to some extent, these people will always bring their problems to politicians. Mind you, it requires restraint on the part of politicians not to get into management things, but this Committee has demonstrated long since that it is well aware of that. I think it would be impossible to say to management, "Now you must so manage that there is no peep out of anybody in the CBC that is not made through channels." I just do not think that is possible. But it is management's responsibility to manage. The Committee said that; the House has said that, and nobody has unsaid it or gainsaid it.

**Mr. Stafford:** Do you remember when this dispute—I do not want to dwell on it—came up before the Committee last year that the producers were complaining that management was interfering with their creative and artistic function thus hampering their ability to produce and certain producers were called before this Committee. One of them, Douglas Leiterman, even went so far as to complain that the edicts from on high were intolerable. When he was asked to give 10 examples he just gave 10 examples that would not even bother the most sensitive individual. Do you agree that it is a great mistake to put producers in a position where they can use a forum of members of Parliament as a referee to settle such disputes?

**Miss LaMarsh:** I do not think they ought to do it and I do not think Parliament ought to do it, and I have a feeling that Parliament feels the same way after having gone through that exercise last year.

**Mr. Stafford:** Would you not agree that calling them before this Committee certainly weakens management. Would you not even

go so far as to say that the Committee made a mistake in even hearing them?

**Miss LaMarsh:** No! Boy, I just get out of one bit of trouble and you want to get me in some more.

**Mr. Stafford:** The only other point I wanted to discuss with you very briefly was this press release of the eight CBC Directors which was released yesterday afternoon. I maintain, first, that it was arrogant; second, that in fact...

**The Chairman:** Mr. Stafford, I do not think that is relevant to the consideration of this Bill.

**Mr. Stafford:** I maintain it is relevant when one talks about the Directors in the Bill. I want to bring out something about their powers.

**The Chairman:** If you would like to deal with their powers, that is fine, and you can ask the Minister some questions about it. However, I do not think statements that have nothing to do with the specific terms of this Bill are relevant to our discussion this afternoon.

**Mr. Stafford:** I can ask my question another way. Do you not feel that this press release in fact lectured Parliament on its functions, which is not the responsibility of the directors? Do you feel that that is a responsibility of the directors?

**The Chairman:** Mr. Stafford I feel that that is not a proper question.

**Mr. Stafford:** Is this not a proper question. Is giving such a press release as that not beyond the responsibility of the directors?

**Miss LaMarsh:** Mr. Stafford, you are a lawyer, I am a lawyer, the Chairman is a lawyer, and your opinion is as good as mine, and the Committee's opinion is better in the present circumstances, so maybe the Committee can say.

**Mr. Leboe:** Well, I will speak up on this, and I am not a lawyer.

**The Chairman:** Suppose you let the person who has the floor continue his questioning.

**Mr. Leboe:** I think the invitation was given by the Minister and I would want to pass up the opportunity.

**The Chairman:** The invitation was given for the Committee to report some time.