

Supply—Secretary of State

would be provided to the people of Chibougamau and Chapais?

I should like the Secretary of State to enlighten us on this, because I think there is some political interference within the administration of the C.B.C. and I wonder whether this is a fact.

• (4:10 p.m.)

[English]

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, I hope that my hon. friend will forgive me for answering in what is my mother tongue. I am certain that no such special information was given to any candidate, Liberal or otherwise. It would seem to me that if such a promise were made, it was the kind of promise my hon. friend would make in his constituency or I would make in mine, namely that we would do everything possible to improve or bring service to the constituency if we were elected a member of this house. I am certain that if such a promise were made, that was the extent of it. I point out to my hon. friend that yesterday he brought in delegates from Chibougamau and Chapais, to discuss service there.

Contrary to a suggestion made by the hon. member for Churchill last night, and I checked this carefully again today with the C.B.C. authorities, no attention at all is paid to whether a constituency that is asking for service elects a member who is, politically speaking, blue, orange, red or any other colour. Everyone in this country who pays taxes pays for this service, and the service is extended on a basis that has nothing to do with the political complexion of the people in the area. It may be that had a Liberal member been elected the problem might have been brought to me and laid on my doorstep the day after I assumed this office. None the less, all I could have done with it is what I have done in this instance, that is pass it on to the C.B.C. to consider and list in their priorities. Then, as parliament votes them money to develop and extend their service they can make sure that every city needing and requesting service is included.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I wish to put a supplementary question to the minister.

I do not want to delay the passage of the estimates, but I would like to mention that in our region the company *Radio-Nord Incorporée* serves all of Abitibi and Témiscamingue. Soon, it will serve as well the areas of Miquelon and Matagami, north of

Amos and east of Senneterre, on the road to Chibougamau and Chapais.

Now, if *Radio-Nord Incorporée* were willing to extend its services to Chapais and Chibougamau, would the C.B.C. be willing to look into the possibility of extending the *Radio-Nord Incorporée* network, and thus enable the people of Chibougamau and Chapais to receive the C.B.C. television signals as well as those already coming from Rouyn?

Then, there would be a possible agreement between the crown corporation and the Company *Radio-Nord Incorporée*, so that the people of Chibougamau and Chapais can get the service as soon as possible.

[English]

Miss LaMarsh: I shall be glad to stress that matter with the C.B.C. authorities.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Chairman, I take it for granted that the Secretary of State does not intend to, or cannot, under the circumstances, confirm that the time limit for the beginning of the work at Place des Ondes, in Montreal, will definitely be October 1, 1966. I have to reach that conclusion since the minister will not tell us if she will make a statement to that effect within a few weeks or will confirm the date set by her predecessor, for whom I have great respect and whose devotion and loyalty I never suspected when he headed that department.

But that is not the question. I understand the difficult situation in which the minister finds herself. I know that there is the report of the Fowler commission and that there were discussions between the authorities of the C.B.C. and the government. I know also that a ministerial committee is trying to find solutions to those various problems, but it remains that the situation is serious for the city of Montreal and that the important projects already elaborated by development companies and organizations in the east end of the city cannot be carried out until the present government has reached a decision.

I must point out to the minister that by including in the discussion all the projects of the C.B.C. throughout the country, she is confusing the issue somewhat, because the construction of the Cité des Ondes, in Montreal, was the first pilot project of that kind which was decided on.

As a matter of fact, as far back as 1958, the city of Montreal proceeded with the confirmation of the land and everything was