

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

"DON MESSER'S JUBILEE"—STATEMENT BY MINISTER OUTLINING REASONS FOR DISCONTINUANCE

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Has the C.B.C. decided to stop fiddling around and leave that to a master entertainer?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I had a conversation with officials of the C.B.C. and I can now state the reply. It is that the C.B.C.'s decision to discontinue the program on the nation-wide network was made after a careful review of several factors, including the diminishing size and nature of the program's audience, the desirability of change to improve the over-all schedule and the potential of the program "Singalong Jubilee" from Halifax which will have a more flexible format. While the C.B.C. recognizes the great contribution made by the Don Messer program over the years, it feels that the proposed change is in the best interest of the over-all network schedule. That was the C.B.C.'s answer, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA—ALLEGED DISREGARD OF INVESTMENT RETURN REGULATIONS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Postmaster General. Does his department intend to make representations to the Canadian Transport Commission and bring to its attention the failure of Bell Telephone to limit its profit to the 6.8 per cent authorized by the Board of Transport Commissioners, or will it ask Bell to reduce the rates it charges customers?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister's department oppose the application of Bell Telephone to the Canadian Transport Commission to increase its profit margin to 9 per cent?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, the C.T.C. was given power by this house. It is the appropriate body to make decisions. Its members have

Inquiries of the Ministry

the ability to make judgments and decisions on their own.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Communications not consider that he has a responsibility to the house and to this country to see that the order of the Board of Transport Commissioners is carried out?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the question as asked is argumentative.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I put the question another way. Since the profit margin for Bell Telephone has been set at 6.8 per cent, does the minister intend to take any action about that ceiling being violated?

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, parliament has entrusted the Canadian Transport Commission with power, authority and responsibility in this matter. If the house wishes to take away that power and responsibility I suppose an appropriate bill would have to be introduced.

DRUGS

REQUEST FOR PERSONNEL OF COMMITTEE INQUIRING INTO NON-MEDICAL USES

Mr. R. L. Whiting (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he now in a position to name the members of the commission who are to study the use and abuse of drugs?

Mr. MacInnis: He ought to be.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, not at the moment. The government is actually considering the membership of the inquiry. I hope in the near future to be in a position to advise the hon. member and the house about the composition of the committee of inquiry.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It relates to the statement he made on Tuesday about a program to provide summer employment for students. Are steps being taken to allocate students for farm assistance to offset the shortage created by the cut-back in foreign students who would otherwise be