

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

aside. Having spent a little time in the news world I think I understand what is news and what is not. Dr. Mbadiwe wanted to tell Canadians that there is indeed a war going on in Biafra, a very serious war, and that a lot of people have been killed. There have also been massacres. The war has been termed, rightly or wrong, a war of genocide.

Dr. Mbadiwe wanted to bring these matters to the attention of the world because news from Nigeria during the last several months has been totally suppressed. He wanted to tell Canadians that the United Nations was being pressed to take action in this matter. He wanted to tell Canadians and the world, through our press media, that the human rights commission of the United Nations had been approached about this problem and urged to intercede to bring the killings to a halt. He wanted to urge upon the world, through Canada and our press media, which we had always thought was free and responsible, the need to supply drugs and medicine and to do everything in our power to urge upon such groups as the Organization for African Unity the absolute necessity to bring the war in Biafra to an immediate halt.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, he wanted Canadians simply to listen to his plea. We have always understood our press services, and indeed our government, to uphold the right of people to express their points of view. Whether we are right or wrong about this question is I think hardly the issue at stake. We have the words of some fairly eminent people in the world on this question. Lord Brockway, speaking on February 13 in the British House of Lords, in his plea for some sort of action on the part of the British government in connection with the war in Nigeria was backed up by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. The sort of points made by those two noble Lords in the British House of Lords are the same points that Dr. Mbadiwe and his colleagues wanted to leave with Canadians.

I understand that Dr. Mbadiwe was the leader of the group that visited Canada, and the senior political representative. Indeed he was one of the two cabinet ministers who signed over civilian control to the military after the military coup in Nigeria. His interview was suppressed. One of his group, Mr. Ndem, did take part in the filmed interview that was shown on one C.B.C. program. However, I am not concerned about that particular program but about the remarks of Dr. Mbadiwe in his filmed interview.

[Mr. Forrestall.]

I would be grateful if the parliamentary secretary would enlighten me as to whether or not there was direct intervention on the part of either the Department of the Secretary of State or the Department of External Affairs in the suppression of the remarks made last week by Dr. Mbadiwe.

[Translation]

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, on March 14 last the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Forrestall) asked the Secretary of State the question which he read at the end of his speech.

[English]

Can she indicate to the house why there was suppression of a recent C.B.C. interview with Dr. Mbadiwe, of the Biafran region of Nigeria, which was filmed for television purposes?

[Translation]

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I must say that the cancelling of that filmed interview on the national network was never contemplated and that it is still not contemplated.

In fact, on March 7, the Toronto news service of the English network of the C.B.C. instructed a cameraman to film sequences of an interview with Mr. Mbadiwe and to send the films to the news service.

It was decided not to use them on the national news broadcast but to make a distribution the next day, March 8, in closed circuit through 18 stations—the English network of the C.B.C. and affiliated stations—which were free to broadcast according to their schedule. This closed circuit is part of the national network and I think that it is customary for either the English network or the French network of the C.B.C. news service to follow this method of distribution to the C.B.C. stations and all affiliated stations.

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS—NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.—  
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR  
DOCK WORKERS

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, since under the rules of the house I am limited to seven minutes, I shall proceed as quickly as possible. On July 9, 1965, the then minister of transport, Hon. J. W. Pickersgill issued an official press release advising that a new rail car ferry would be put into operation between the port of North Sydney and Newfoundland. After being questioned in this house over many months and