

investment in that area for example by making provision in the last budget for substantial tax incentives.

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● (1500)

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

SUGGESTION LEADERS' SPEECHES IN THRONE SPEECH DEBATE BE BROADCAST

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In view of a statement that was made a few months ago by the Prime Minister in the question period to the effect that he intended to use the day after tomorrow to answer the questions raised by members of this House with respect to unemployment in the country and our economic situation, and in view of the fact that it is not the intention of the public broadcasting media, particularly the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, at this point in any event, to carry that very important speech and the speeches of the other party leaders with respect to the situation in the country, I wonder whether I could ask the Secretary of State if he would consult with the president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and perhaps advise the House further with respect to the intention of that corporation in regard to that very important public occasion in this parliament?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I should be happy, as requested by the hon. member, to explore this matter with the president of the CBC when I meet with him later on today.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

TV AND RADIO BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE AND ITS COMMITTEES

FIFTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to present the fifth report of the special committee appointed to supervise the implementation of radio and television broadcasting of the proceedings of the House and its committees. I do want to beg, as I indicated earlier, the indulgence of the House to take just a moment to make a remark or two about the changes in the House which have taken place over the intervening two months since we last sat.

With the tabling of this fifth report we complete a series of reports which cover in a rather comprehensive, although brief, way the work of that special committee which had a rather extraordinary mandate, that of implementing a decision of the House. This is a rather unusual mandate, and when we did meet as a committee to carry out this assigned task, our initial advice was that it would be at least 18 to 24 months before the

Broadcasting of House Proceedings

task could be accomplished. The fact that we are all here today, with the work done, when in fact we not only did not have the chamber vacated on July 1 as we had hoped but, indeed, not until the middle of August, is really remarkable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I want to pay just a brief tribute to the people who I feel have given absolute devotion to their tasks, above and beyond the call of duty. We have, as hon. members will notice, relocated the desks in the chamber in order to add more. We have relocated the Chair in order to increase the seating to 300 members and accommodate those redistribution changes which the House provided for in recent legislation. We have upgraded the sound system, which in fact is an entire replacement of the sound system, and I think it has proven today to be a very worth-while addition to our facilities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, Hear!

Mr. Speaker: We have, incredibly, constructed over the south gallery an entire studio which was not there two months ago. I think it is a tribute to the Department of Public Works that this was done, and particularly to their architect in charge who has the specific assignment of heritage buildings, Mr. Robert Calvert, and who I think has done the job in such a way as to preserve the dignity of the chamber.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The fact that these many steps were taken within that space of time reflects, I think, the serious and conscientious attitude of the members of the committee, those members of the House who sat on this rather special committee and who worked quite long hours during the very brief recess that other members enjoyed. I will not try to name the members; they are known to the parties in the House.

In that work we were aided immensely by a team of advisers from the CBC upon whom we relied constantly for advice and technical assistance. On the technical side, that team was headed by Mr. Jim Landsberg, and on the production quality side the whole operation was watchdogged, to ensure the highest quality, by Mr. Cameron Graham. I think the House owes both those gentlemen a great deal of appreciation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: During the time this work was carried out, the staff of the House, particularly the Clerk of the House, Mr. Alistair Fraser, had really to be in the building almost 24 hours a day to supervise.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: In that work, Mr. Fraser was joined, on the technical side of the radio and television installations, by Mr. Alex Small, who has been in the service of the House of Commons now for many years, and particularly by the Sergeant-at-Arms who was responsible for safeguarding the sanctity of this chamber during all this intensive reconstruction.