

has that statement, and I appreciate there is no secrecy, but then what is next?

Miss LaMarsh: I think you raised this in the House of Commons. I am in the hands of the Committee. If you have a better idea of how to do this, I would be very happy to hear about it. It seems to me that that would depend on the rules of the House of Commons. It is very hard to prejudice what kind of matter would be so serious that those directions having been given, the members of Parliament would wish it brought within the forum of Parliament at that point. But, if so, it will, I think, have to depend upon the rules of Parliament as they may be in force at that particular time. I would hesitate to build into this kind of legislation rules for a particular situation which would be foreign to the general rules of Parliament. But if the Committee has specific suggestions on this, I would be very happy to hear them.

If the Committee has better ideas of how to handle this kind of potential conflict, let us hear them. We have discussed this with my colleagues and my officials again and again and again, and this seemed to us on balance the best way to do it. But we are not infallible on this or any other matter. We have had very great help from the Committee in the past, and if you have some ideas I would like to hear them.

Mr. Jamieson: Miss LaMarsh, my last question has to do with your exchange of correspondence with Mr. Sylvestre. Let us assume, as seems inevitable in as large and as complex a corporation as the CBC, that there are differences at one time or another between producers and top management of CBC or its Board of Directors with regard to the propriety or the wisdom of a particular course of action. Let us assume that the Board of Directors of the CBC as again, I think, is inevitable, passes judgment in a way that is not on all fours with the views of the producer. Is the word of the Board of Directors now going to be final in that case? In other words, does the producer have to understand that he is subject to the determination made by the Board of Directors and that is the end of it?

Miss LaMarsh: I do not know what they may think from time to time but it is perfectly clear that that is the legal position under the new legislation. There is no way in which you can prevent them from doing what

everyone does, which is to go to the public forum. I think it is clear from what this Committee said last year in looking at a similar situation, and it was certainly clear in a statement that I made to the CBC publicly at the time of their awards last spring, that the Minister cannot be, and is not intended to be, a court of appeal for people within the Corporation. The Corporation has obviously been in a state of flux for quite a long time and I think it is going to settle down very quickly. A lot of this kind of out-of-chain of communication action is really a symptom of frustration and I think that when the Corporation settles down it will too. I do not mean to suggest that we will never see another situation similar to the strike in Montreal or to the Seven Days situation. I do not think there is any way we can legislate against it.

Mr. Jamieson: But the point is: how much confidence can the new Board of Directors of the CBC, whether it is new personnel or the present one, have that in making its decisions it has at least the support of the government? It seems to me that if every producer or group of producers knows that it has free access, say, to the responsible minister or to the government in some way or other, this is going to make the position of the Board of Directors of the CBC a pretty difficult one in the event that any dispute arises. In other words, is the government going to have the willingness to say: "This is a matter for the CBC Board of Directors. We have appointed them and they have the responsibility to Parliament. Talk to them and to no one else."

Miss LaMarsh: The CBC Board of Directors has now and will have in the new legislation a position which it reports to Parliament. There is virtually no contact between the CBC Board of Directors and the Minister's office. You might say there is none except that made by the chief executive officer, who is also a member of the Board. The management lines, as laid down, are perfectly clear and always have been.

But if you are suggesting that neither a responsible minister nor any other members of Parliament should entertain people actively working in the Corporation who have quarrels with management, I do not think this should be the case. Parliament represents the people and the people's Corporation. Producers and actors and other people below the management level are part of the people. They surely have a right to have access to all