

Supply—Secretary of State

truth squad that we in this party are truly bilingual, at least we try to be. I have asked her the question in both French and English. Perhaps I should ask her the question in Spanish, Chinese or Eskimo, I don't know; but I have asked if she is ready to answer this question now. I impress upon the minister that I am ready to refrain from speaking on the subject if she will give me an answer, but she has not yet given any indication that she will answer my question. As the minister responsible for this project, will she say whether it will be completed on the date that was decided, namely October 1, 1966?

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, I see the minister is surrounded by some other colleagues from Quebec—I ask her to tell us whether this project will materialize. I see the new Postmaster General (Mr. Côté) at her side; he is perfectly bilingual and he is a young man who rose to glory at a clip with Quebec minister Laporte. This project is no longer a joke. Our Liberal opponents once again want to fool the population of Montreal. I am happy to see them smile about this intervention which affects the economy of the East of Montreal. French Canadians complain of having been neglected in the past by the federal government.

Now that the former government has decided on a project of fantastic scope which will give a considerable impulsion to the city of Montreal, particularly to the east—I see the Postmaster General smile and I should like to know whether it is a cynical smile or whether he intends to fulfil the promises made during the election campaign.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Valade: I ask the Secretary of State to answer my question.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. Postmaster General is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): It seems that the member for Sainte-Marie wants to involve me in this matter. He says I have a cynical smile. I only ask him to sit down that I may answer him.

Mr. Valade: Since the Secretary of State is invited to answer by her colleague the Postmaster General, I leave her the floor if she wishes to answer.

[Mr. Valade.]

• (10:10 p.m.)

[English]

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of questions asked this evening, and I was waiting, particularly in view of the lateness of the hour, until all questions had been put before I attempt to give some brief answer prior to the termination of our discussion on vote No. 1.

Earlier this evening the hon. members for Chapleau and Churchill, as well as hon. members for Saguenay, Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador, Northwest Territories and even the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate privately, and on many occasions, raised the question of the extension of the services provided by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, first of all to parts of Canada not yet reached by any service. I fully agree, as I am sure every hon. member does, that it should be extended to such regions as quickly as is humanly possible, if it is humanly possible.

As is known by these hon. members I have enumerated, though I am sure there are others who have not taken the opportunity to mention to me difficulties in this regard in their ridings, the C.B.C. has been unable over a number of years, because of insufficient money voted by parliament, to reach the complete population of Canada. Indeed, we could never reach 100 per cent of the population of Canada through the radio arm of the corporation as well as the television arm.

As a result of my predecessors' study of the matter—firstly the Minister of Transport who had a troika set up to study the question of broadcasting, and latterly my immediate predecessor who had the Fowler committee set up—one subject of intense interest was the extension of services to the ultimate level throughout the whole of Canada.

I share with all hon. members who have spoken a desire to see as quickly as practicable the extension of service to every Canadian in Canada who can receive it. Unhappily, I am not in a position to say—

Mr. Caouette: Would the hon. lady permit a question, please. She just said service would be extended whenever it is humanly possible. Now, is it a question of being humanly possible or financially impossible?

Miss LaMarsh: I think I know to which slogan my hon. friend has reference. In the first place, I should like to say that it is a question of being humanly possible to some extent, because I am told that we cannot