

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

he is bilingual and an artist in several respects. He has a certain common touch which makes him at home with the type of people with whom he is in contact. People are very concerned that this producer's contract may be cancelled and that he will not have an opportunity to conclude his work. Apparently this is quite fairly well known in British Columbia and particularly in the Kootenays.

I am rising this evening to bring the matter to the attention of the parliamentary secretary and ask him to bring it to the attention of the minister, so that he will have an opportunity to obtain the facts and see what can be done to retain the services of this first rate producer who has served the C.B.C. for quite a long period.

● (10:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State: Mr. Speaker, no member who knows well the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) is surprised at his interest in this film on the Columbia and, consequently, we are putting ourselves in the present atmosphere created by what we are agreed to call the "Seven Days" affair, the not less marked interest in the lot of the producer of this film on the Columbia, Mr. Tom Conochie. That is why it seemed unavoidable, under these circumstances, that the case of Mr. Conochie be not raised.

Being most sensitive to anything dealing with the Columbia river, those who followed the vicissitudes of the signing of the Columbia river treaty, will recall the numerous interventions of the hon member for Kootenay West. It was the intention of the hon. member to intervene as a result of what he calls the firing of the producer of the film on the Columbia river. In this case, as in

others of the same kind, it is well to point out, in my opinion, that C.B.C. producers are employed on a contract basis and work regularly under contract with the corporation. In the case of Mr. Conochie, his contract was for 12 months and expired in January, 1966. On that date, that is in January, 1966, the C.B.C. which had signed with this producer a contract containing clauses stipulating that the corporation could, with or without reason, renew or not renew a contract, decided that Mr. Tom Conochie's contract expiring in January was not to be renewed. However, another contract was offered to him, but for a shorter term, that is 14 weeks, and Mr. Conochie turned it down. From January to May 14, 1966, Mr. Conochie worked for the C.B.C. as a producer on a monthly basis.

What has more interest for the hon. member for Kootenay West is the showing of the film on the Columbia river. In July, 1965, the producer, Mr. Conochie, was asked to produce black and white and colour films on the Columbia river for March 1, 1966.

Now, on March 1, 1966, the work was not completed. It is perhaps one of the reasons why the contract was not renewed.

In reply to the question which seems to interest the hon. member for Kootenay West, namely, if the film produced by Mr. Conochie, which he saw himself could be shown to members of this house, I must tell him, after inquiring from the C.B.C., that corporation authorities are making every possible effort to enable members of this house to take advantage of the fine work done by Mr. Tom Conochie in this very interesting film on the Columbia river and which is of great interest to the hon. member for Kootenay West.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.16 p.m.
