

## TELEVISION

## MAGDALEN ISLANDS—STATEMENT ON REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF FRENCH NETWORK

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue):** On Monday, the hon. member for Iles-de-la-Madeleine asked me a question with regard to the prospects for the installation of television service in these islands, and the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond also raised the question with me at the same time. I have an answer here, Mr. Speaker, which is rather long for orders of the day, and rather technical. With the permission of the house I suggest it might be better if it were printed in *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

[*Editor's note: The text of the answer is as follows:*]

The corporation has given a great deal of attention to possible methods of extending C.B.C. French language television service to the Magdalen islands. Four possible plans have been studied:

(1) Video tape recordings.

(2) Kine recordings.

(3) A series of rebroadcasting stations in Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton island and the Magdalen islands relaying live network service from our present Moncton station.

(4) Extension of the French network from Moncton to Cape Breton where a network relay station would serve a rebroadcast station in the Magdalens.

The first two plans were abandoned because of the high costs involved particularly for a non-live service. Plans 3 and 4 have the advantage of providing live service to the French language population of P.E.I. and Cape Breton, as well as the Magdalen islands. While both these plans are more expensive in dollar terms than either video tape or kine recordings, the fact that they would serve more than twice as many people makes their estimated cost per capita the same or lower.

Plan 3 (the system of rebroadcasting stations) would involve a relatively high capital cost and would affect limited potential for future extensions of service. While plan 4 (extension of the network) would involve a lower capital cost than plan 3, operating costs would be substantially higher resulting in a somewhat higher per capita cost. However, this plan would lend itself more readily to extension of t.v. service into adjacent areas should the need arise in the future. In addition, plan 4 is considered to be more satisfactory from a technical point of view.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

At the moment, the corporation is assembling further data and refining its estimates, particularly with respect to the costs of extending network service. When this process is completed, probably within the next few months, the corporation will be able to decide which of the two plans under study should be acted on.

## DIVORCE

## INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he has given any consideration to the establishment of a royal commission to undertake a study of parliamentary procedure with regard to divorce.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** That is a matter, of course, for parliament to decide.

## FINANCE

## INCLUSION IN BUDGET OF DEPOSIT LOST BY CANDIDATE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. P. Deschatelets (Maisonneuve-Rosemont):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister say if he has included in his budget the \$200 deposit that the member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm is going to lose in the coming election?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Hon. members have been taking a fair amount of latitude today, and perhaps now we can get to orders of the day.

(*Translation*):

## PUBLIC SERVICE

## STE. ANNE DES MONTS, QUE.—POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF POSTMASTER

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Roland English (Gaspé):** I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General.

Was he made aware of the fact that a civil servant, that is a postmaster at St. Anne des Monts, tendered his resignation in order to run as a Liberal candidate at the next election?

**Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that would be—

(*Text*):

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think the question hardly warrants the time of the house.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** I thought the vacancy might be of interest to the hon. member for St. Denis.