

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Text]

BROADCASTING**RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING RADIO STATION CJOR, VANCOUVER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): In view of the fact that it is now several weeks since the Board of Broadcast Governors had made a recommendation to cancel the licence of radio station CJOR in Vancouver, can the Minister say whether he has yet reached a decision in connection with this matter and, if so, upon what basis he has reached that decision?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I think the hon. Member appreciates, as do all other hon. Members, that the licence was not suspended immediately, and in view of some very difficult legal questions which are involved in this matter I am still giving consideration to the recommendation I should make to my colleagues. I intend to give it as much attention as I can and to reach a conclusion as soon as I can.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): In view of the fact that there are a great many people in the lower mainland of British Columbia who feel very strongly that the present holders of this licence for radio station CJOR should be allowed to continue, will any public hearings be held in the area so the public may be given an opportunity to express their views on this matter?

Mr. Pickersgill: Certainly there will be no public hearings held by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker, and I think if there are to be any public hearings held, they would have to be held by the Board of Broadcast Governors, which was entrusted by Parliament with this kind of duty. This is precisely one of those questions to which I am giving such consideration as I can. The situation, I am told, is unprecedented, and I think it is very important that whatever is done should be done carefully, according to the law and with a due regard for natural justice.

Mr. Douglas: Then may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker, and ask him whether the Board of Broadcast Governors are planning to hold any hearings in the lower mainland in order to ascertain the views of the general public, many of whom have enjoyed the programs on radio station CJOR and would like to

express their views with regard to the possibility of the present holders of the licence being able to continue.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to get the views of the B.B.G. on this question.

Mr. Winch: A supplementary question to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. In view of the urgency of this matter, could I ask the Minister whether in his consideration of the recommendation of the Board of Broadcast Governors regarding cancellation, consideration is being given to the fact that Mrs. Chandler, who is a 55 per cent owner, holds dual citizenship, Canadian and American?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I do not know that this particular point had come to my knowledge. I am not absolutely sure that at first blush its relevance is entirely clear to me. But I will look into that, among the other considerations. I may say that before reaching any conclusion it is my intention, even before discussing this matter with my other colleagues, to discuss it with my hon. friend the Secretary of State.

Mr. Winch: This matter is of major importance, Mr. Speaker, because my understanding is that an American citizen cannot have a majority ownership in a radio station. That is the reason I ask the Minister whether he has taken this matter into consideration.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**UNION PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING SHORTAGE OF MINERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, notice of which I gave yesterday. I would like to ask the Minister whether the United Steel Workers of America made representations to him that they would like to sit in on the discussions of the Canadian Metal Mining Association with respect to manpower problems; and if they have, whether they were invited to sit in, as the Minister promised me in April they would be; and if not, why have they not been invited to participate?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, this question arises from a meeting which the Metal Mining Association requested with the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys as a normal exchange of views. In the course of that meeting, which