

Supply—Secretary of State

1. The air belongs to the people, who are entitled to hear the principal points of view on all questions of importance.

The points I mentioned in my speech were certainly of importance, not only nationally but locally. Then we read this:

2. The air must not fall under the control of any individual or groups influenced by reason of their wealth or special position.

Not even the C.B.C. or their directorship. The third one I have already read:

The right to answer is inherent in the democratic doctrine of free speech.

Then:

4. Freedom of speech and the full interchange of opinion are among the principal safeguards of free institutions.

It seems to me that adopting the course which they did adopt, with all due respect to the bona fides of their position, was wrong. They should have allowed an answer to be made, if they thought it was controversial, but they should certainly not have prevented me from communicating, as I wished to do, with my constituents. The absurdity is apparent now. I could simply read this *Hansard*, if the session were continuing; but I cannot now because this session has almost finished. If there were still time I could go over there tomorrow, read the speech right out of *Hansard* and this would be within the law.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, if I may make a suggestion to the hon. member for Yukon, it is this. This session will probably last for another couple of hours. Perhaps he could arrange for the C.B.C. to get over there quickly and have it recorded right away.

Mr. Nielsen: I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, the mails to the Yukon are not that quick.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Chairman, the suggestions made by the Secretary of State are really accepted already in principle.

Mr. Pickersgill: They are, for national broadcasts.

Mr. Douglas: There are provincial affairs broadcasts, where the various parties are given time according to a formula to discuss provincial affairs. There is also The Nation's Business, in which program members elected to the federal parliament may discuss federal matters. It seems to me that the same principle could be applied equally to areas such as the Yukon and Skeena, and those remote places where the C.B.C. is the only means of reaching the public. In those areas time could be allocated under the same type of formula as is used for provincial affairs and The Nation's Business.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is exactly my view.

[Mr. Nielsen.]

[Translation]

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the establishment, as soon as possible by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, of a French television station in the city of Quebec. It is, I believe, an imperative need, not to say an obviously urgent need.

The city of Quebec is pre-eminently the French city in Canada; it is the capital of the province of Quebec and, I believe, it would be most appropriate that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation establish in that city a French television station.

In the city of Quebec, we have now two television stations, that is CKMI and CFCM, one of English language and the other of French language, evidently controlled and owned by private enterprise.

That is why I am of the opinion it is inconceivable to see the city of Quebec, the capital of the province of Quebec, not endowed with a station of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

I remember that a few years ago, in this house, one of the most severe critics of the C.B.C. was none other than the former Conservative member for Roberval, Mr. Tremblay, who made the headlines lately in the Quebec newspapers for having said that the royal commission on biculturalism and bilingualism was a trap set for the French Canadians. It is this same Mr. Tremblay, the former Conservative member for Roberval, who says "no" to confederation.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether those remarks tally with those of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) or the views of the Conservative party, but I say this without bitterness, just to tease.

If we had a public French language television station in Quebec city, it seems to me that we could help promote unity and solidarity between all Canadians, and prevent people like Mr. Tremblay from making unfair, shocking and unfortunate remarks.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding I stress the immediate need for a French language television station in the city of Quebec.

[Text]

Mr. Pickersgill: I am told that this station is expected to be opened in September of 1964.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairman and members of the House of Commons, I regret very, very much having to be here tonight and speaking on the 21st day of December. I realize that a modified form of closure is being applied and I am quite prepared to admit it. I have been a member of this house since a year ago last September. I have been anxious to speak on C.B.C. matters during that entire