

Supply—Secretary of State

committee, being so delayed, would permit me to do so during the study of next year's estimates.

I should like to say, however, that in the time I have been in office I have never found such evidence of a man's devotion to the subject matters of a portfolio of government. The former Secretary of State I think is a shining example throughout the country of the stimulation and cultivation of cultural pursuits in this country. He is held in highest regard by all of those in the various fields of culture, who believe that he is the real hope for the people of Canada with regard to the advancement of these fields. My predecessor was, as a cultivated man, no cheap politician who would make promises which he did not intend to keep, nor is this government attempting in any way to retreat from any promise or undertaking ever made in this regard.

My hon. friend and all hon. members of the committee must realize that the Fowler committee was asked to look into a number of things regarding C.B.C. financing and its arrangements, and one of these was its consolidation plans. I assume that the hon. member for Sainte-Marie understands that it is intended to go ahead with the consolidations in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Indeed, I have just received a request in respect of the city of Winnipeg regarding consolidation.

All of the facilities of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation need to be updated, which will require a great deal of money. But when public money is spent in setting up a committee which studies the problem thoroughly, and recommends certain things very much at variance to what the management of the board of the C.B.C. has recommended, I know my hon. friend will understand why the government believes it would be an arrant disregard of its responsibilities not to restudy these individual matters before committing itself to asking parliament for the necessary money.

The funds to be expended on each of these consolidation plans are very considerable. The buildings to be constructed we hope will last at least 50 years into the future, and will fit the requirements of broadcasting in the public sector. That being the case, the government is reconsidering the two opposed positions. I hope it will in a very short period of time be able to make its decision known with respect to the consolidation plans for these three cities.

[Miss LaMarsh.]

I said last night, and I should like to repeat, that there has never been any suggestion from any responsible source that the C.B.C. was not going to build. In fact, I want to make this very clear; the C.B.C. intends to build and the government intends that it shall build. The government intends that this construction shall take place in Montreal on the site which is known as "Place Radio Canada".

Mr. Favreau: It is Place des Ondes.

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, it is Place des Ondes on Dorchester east, in Montreal. As I said last night, the chairman of the committee, in whose constituency part of the building is to be located with the other part being in Sainte-Marie, has been extremely helpful to me in this regard. We have consulted almost daily on this as to what will happen on the site, and as to the requirements of the people in the area of the municipality, etc.

I want to say to the hon. member, and to all members of the committee, that the government is moving as quickly as it can in the whole field of broadcasting in order to arrive at certain decisions, such as those in respect of consolidation, which need not await the white paper on broadcasting policy generally. I am very happy to undertake to all hon. members that as quickly as possible these decisions will be made and will be at once made public.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I have but one question to ask the Secretary of State.

Yesterday, we talked about radio and television for the Chibougamau area. Well, this morning, I learned that during last fall's election campaign the Liberal candidate in the riding of Chapeau, Mr. Gaston Labrèche, of Amos, who incidentally lost his deposit, was assuring the people of Chibougamau that the C.B.C. had agreed to provide Chibougamau and Chapais with television and radio service in the weeks following November 8.

And I should point out that Mr. Labrèche, the Liberal candidate, was being accompanied throughout the riding by the present Quebec minister of Lands and Forests, Mr. Lucien Cliche. They were both promising Chibougamau and Chapais that, right after November 8, the services of the C.B.C. would be made available to those two towns, if Mr. Labrèche were elected.

Does the minister know if the C.B.C. did promise a Liberal candidate that its services