

*Canadian Policy on Broadcasting*

do say this that despite the charges of mismanagement and bureaucracy the corporation has done an excellent job during this centennial year.

**Miss LaMarsh:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Prittie:** I have watched many of the corporation's programs and they are, as they should be, interpreting Canada to Canadians. Last evening I watched the program about the Yukon and I gathered much new information.

**Miss LaMarsh:** How did you manage that? The house did not rise until late.

**Mr. Prittie:** In the past I have been critical of the private broadcasters. It is true they have not done as they promised they would. One year ago the C.T.V. network changed its organization; nevertheless, they have not done everything they promised to do. But they too have made an effort to broadcast more programs with more Canadian content than they did before. Of course, our centennial year prompted them to do this. They and the C.B.C. covered that great entertainment, the Tory convention, which took place in Toronto in September. Both networks did a good job.

We understand that the bill is to go to the broadcasting committee for clause by clause study. In my opening remarks on Wednesday I said that the relationship of the minister, the regulatory authority and the C.B.C., among a number of other aspects of the bill, ought to be examined carefully. We must look hard at the entire field of relationships.

Today I deliberately dealt with the use of Canadian talent. We must make the effort to create Canadian programs which will be of a quality that Canadians will want to watch. If we spend our money, make the effort and then find after five or six years that Canadians do not want Canadian programs, that will present us with a situation that we must then examine. In the meantime I think we ought to make the effort and I do not think we have done so in the past.

[Translation]

**Mr. Alcide Simard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to sit on the committee that considered the reforms, the improvements and the radical changes which are the purpose of the bill we have before us.

Before coming to the core of my remarks, may I be permitted to congratulate the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury) and to remind the house that he has

[Mr. Prittie.]

chaired these informative sittings with remarkable tact and understanding.

Since its inception in Canada almost fifty years ago, broadcasting has originated as much with private as with public enterprise. For almost half a century now, it has been extending its services and, at the present time, radio services reach 98 per cent and television services more than 92 per cent of the Canadian people.

To become such an integral part of the daily life of the people, broadcasting has to adapt to public needs, so as to learn to serve them according to the language and the separate culture of each ethnic group, without weakening the concept of national unity. It is not an easy task to achieve this accomplishment in a country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It was necessary to set up 360 radio transmitters and 221 television and satellite stations to reach a population spread over 4000 miles of territory. The combination and connection of radio and television stations enable almost all Canadians to listen to or witness events of national interest at the time they are happening. Such achievements have contributed to make our radio network one of the most highly considered in the world.

• (12:20 p.m.)

But our effort should not stop or be limited there, because there are certain values to be protected at the C.B.C. Fortunately, the present government has taken the worthy initiative of amending and changing the Broadcasting Act. We hope they will proceed objectively, always taking into account the best interest of the people who are always waiting for the reforms suggested in the bill.

Reading the resolution preceeding Bill No. C-163, I took particular note of the interventions by the hon. members for Chapeau and Trois-Rivières (Messrs. Laprise and Mongrain).

In his speech reported on page 3180 and 3181 of the French version of *Hansard* for October 17 last, the hon. member for Chapeau recalled the numerous protests sent to the C.B.C. because of the deceptive character of some programs shown in the past. In a petition addressed to the present Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), 76,000 Canadian women have jointly expressed their strong disapproval of some programs shamelessly displaying morbid immorality, injurious to the soul and spirit of our young people especially.

Other authorized persons have called for a more effective censorship to suppress, at least