

Hon. Senators: Agreed.
Motion withdrawn.

[English]

THE SENATE

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE BROADCASTING OF PROCEEDINGS— DEBATE ADJOURNED ON MOTION IN AMENDMENT

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Davey, seconded by the Honourable Senator Frith:

That the Senate authorize arrangements for radio and television broadcasting of its proceedings and those of its committees.—(*Honourable Senator Phillips.*)

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, before the summer recess, the honourable Senator Davey presented his motion that the Senate authorize arrangements for radio and television broadcasting of its proceedings and those of its committees. He began in a rather interesting way to explain that the motion was not a whim, not an idle suggestion nor was it simply a caprice. Honourable senators, I am sure many of you would question Senator Davey's motives in moving the motion, but I do not think that anyone would go as far as to suggest that he was being capricious. In my remarks, I will disagree with him on a number of points but, at the same time, I will attempt to recognize that the honourable senator was sincere, if misguided, in moving his motion.

For the information of all honourable senators, the Senate has, for several years, provided a tape or a "feed" of the proceedings in the Senate to the press gallery. Members of the gallery are permitted to use the tape, or any portion thereof, in a news broadcast for radio or any other type of broadcast that they wish. Apparently, some honourable senators, including the sponsor of the motion, were not aware of this fact. My curiosity was aroused as a result of Senator Davey's motion and I was prompted to make inquiries concerning the use of tapes of the speeches of Senator Davey. It was rather discouraging to learn that not once in the last five years has any radio station, either public or private, utilized the tapes of Senator Davey's speeches in this chamber. Pity!

Unfortunately, my ego caused me to make inquiries concerning my own remarks and I must say, honourable senators, the results were not much more encouraging. I think that when I totalled up the amount of time I spent making inquiries, it far exceeded the amount of time that my tapes were used in news items. In short, honourable senators, neither Senator Davey nor myself received a platinum record, a gold record nor did we make the top 10 on the hit parade.

Senator Doody: Not as much as a caprice.

Senator Phillips: I thought to myself that, surely, somewhere in the Senate, there must be someone who attracted media attention. I am continually hearing how brilliant are the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; how comprehensive their speeches. I thought that surely somewhere, some-

one must have utilized the tapes containing the speeches of those two honourable gentlemen.

Senator Frith: I am not rising to that fly.

Senator Phillips: Honourable senators, I found the same result; they were not popular either. Then I thought of Senator Gigantès, my honourable friend, who is well known to the media. Perhaps there would be some partisanship there and they might have utilized his speeches. Unfortunately, honourable senators, Senator Gigantès is among those who have been ignored by the media.

It is incomprehensible that speeches of that calibre are not reported and re-broadcast. It is unfortunate that the public has no great desire, apparently, to find the radio waves or the TV broadcasting of this country filled with the stirring speeches and the inspiring proceedings of this august body. They have had the opportunity for the last five years and, for some strange and unfathomable reason, the Senate has failed to replace the soap operas as the favoured afternoon program.

Senator Davey has always taken a particular interest in the media and has always attempted to influence them to present what I have so often termed the Liberal propaganda, and he has been very successful in that in the past. It is rather strange that, with all of the success he has had with the media, he has never been able to persuade a radio station to utilize the speeches of a single, solitary Liberal senator. After five years, that tells us something. Perhaps Senator Davey reverted to his expertise in the advertising field in that when a product is not selling there is immediately put on an expensive campaign. I suspect, honourable senators, that that is the real purpose of the motion; that is, Liberal senators are not selling, therefore, an expensive TV campaign is required.

● (1600)

At the end of the sponsor's remarks I questioned him concerning his lack of reference to radio broadcasts in his explanation. The reply was even more confusing than the speech. He said that including radio in the motion was an error. I suggest that the whole motion was an error, but more likely the oversight for including radio in the motion was because the honourable senator was not sufficiently interested in his motion to read it before he put it on the order paper.

Honourable senators, we have been allowing radio to carry our proceedings for five years; we would look rather ridiculous if we now re-authorized radio to do that.

Senator Davey: That is why I excluded radio from the motion.

Senator Phillips: Perhaps the honourable senator would like to amend the motion so that only television broadcasting of proceedings is left.

I have had an opportunity to read Senator Davey's remarks since I returned from the summer break. I find little in them which I can agree with, and certainly nothing to change my mind. Certainly the Senate requires a greater public impact, but, honourable senators, that greater public impact will not come about simply because there are TV cameras recording and broadcasting the proceedings; that greater impact will