

*Television Transmission Facilities*

referred to those representations. I say this, without reflecting, of course, on her immediate predecessor, the hon. member for Outremont-Saint-Jean (Mr. Lamontagne), who devoted all his energies to the extension of cultural television broadcasts to every area of our country.

I should also like to point out to the hon. member that if the C.B.C. has not actually covered more of our country, it is often due—vulgar as it may seem—to the question of dollars and cents and not, I am deeply convinced, a question of ill-will as under previous administrations. It is purely and simply a financial matter. It is not the general policy of the C.B.C. to deprive certain areas of our country of the benefits of television. I am also sure it has not entered the mind of the hon. member from Meadow Lake that the C.B.C. is wilfully refusing to extend its services throughout Canada. It is purely a question of money.

I believe that C.B.C., in its efforts to extend its services, faces three main problems. First, there are the areas not currently served, then the improvements required to current services, and the replacement over a period of many years of current services now totally obsolete.

These three problems, my hon. friend will admit, are almost on the same level. It is a question of priority: Which is the most important? Is it to serve immediately 100 per cent of the population and to hold back on the development, for instance, of colour T.V.? Should the C.B.C. spend a fortune, considering the unfortunate sparsity of our population, and be left far behind by private industry?

As far as its financial means allow, is the C.B.C. not supposed to try at once to extend its services to areas which do not have them at present, to be always at the fore, never to let itself be outstripped with regard to the improvement of its present services, and never to let itself be outstripped by letting its facilities become obsolete?

I attach a great deal of importance to this problem. Being French speaking myself, and my friend English speaking, which in no way reflects upon our sound Canadianism, I believe that C.B.C. should extend from coast to coast, right across the country, and thus fulfill the wish made when it was founded.

I believe that the C.B.C., while admitting the grounds for the suggestion made by the member from Meadow Lake, should also—and

the hon. member mentioned it in his remarks—assign part of its revenue to the development of bilingual television across the whole of Canada. I believe that, at the moment, this is as important as providing C.B.C. services to the remote regions at an exorbitant price.

Thus, to summarize somewhat my observations, in answer to the hon. member for Meadow Lake who says that the C.B.C., rather than extending its network in areas not serviced at present, intends to assign part of this money to colour television, that the C.B.C. must compete immediately with those who are offering colour television if we want to promote our Canadian identity from coast to coast, be it French-speaking or English speaking. If we want to keep our Canadian identity, it is essential that the important field of television, the one which probably exerts the strongest influence on our young people, those young people who, as could easily be pointed out—

[English]

Are not born prejudiced, but could easily be made prejudiced.

[Translation]

Well, those young people, when watching television, be it in Vancouver, New Brunswick or in Quebec, will realize that a language different from their own is being spoken and they will immediately understand the bilingual character of their country. That should strike our young people.

That is why the C.B.C. should extend its bilingual service throughout Canada as much as possible. Now, that requires huge sums of money. The corporation must enter immediately into the field of colour television. I am repeating myself, but I feel this is important. The C.B.C. should not be criticized for spending tremendous sums on the development of colour television. My hon. friend knows very well what happened in Toronto recently. That is a striking example of what could take place elsewhere. Indeed, it is claimed that if the Toronto area had been provided with a new television station, people in Toronto and the surrounding area would be prevented from watching their favourite American programs as they are doing now.

If our people start watching American colour television, you can well imagine what might happen. I know that my hon. friend is as worried as I am about that. The C.B.C. must undertake research in the field of television and radio in Canada. If the C.B.C. does