

Request for Third T.V. Station in Toronto

entertain an application for such a station. By a series of moves, CFRB found a way to return channel 13 to Toronto which is now used by Kitchener and Rochester. The moves were: (1) a CBC repeater in Haliburton to be moved from channel 5 to 4; (2) CBLT—CBC Toronto—to be moved from channel 6 to 5; (3) CKCO-TV Kitchener to be moved from channel 13 to 6; (4) WROC-TV Rochester to be moved from channel 13 to 6.

The applicant had the necessary agreement from each station involved and the Department of Transport gave approval from a technical standpoint. In June, 1967, when the Board of Broadcast Governors gave its decision on the application to transfer the Barrie station, channel 3, to Toronto, it commented on the CFRB proposal as follows:

The board advised the minister that at the public hearing announced for November, 1967, the board would wish to hear an application from CFRB Limited for the use of channel 13 in Toronto, provided the application is forwarded to the board by the Department of Transport, as a technically acceptable application, in time for the November hearing.

As a condition to obtaining such a hearing for the return of channel 13 to Toronto, CFRB offered to hold their agreements with the other stations involved in trust, for the successful applicant, and in addition it offered to set up a chain of UHF stations throughout southern Ontario and to support them financially until they were economically strong enough to become independent.

On April 1, 1968, the CRTC replaced the BBG and on December 10, 1968, the CRTC wrote to CFRB returning their application with the simple comment, that channel 13 had not been allocated for use in Toronto. So without a hearing, without considering CFRB's proposal in detail, and without giving any reasons, the CRTC reversed the position of the Board of Broadcast Governors and denied this service to Toronto.

Recently the CRTC announced that it will hold hearings in Toronto on three kinds of proposals: for channel 6, southwest of Toronto and in the Belleville area; for an English language UHF station in Toronto, and for the CBC, a UHF French language station in Toronto.

From the information which I have received, south of Toronto means in the Paris, Ontario, area and even with extra and expensive gadgets on aerials only a part of the Toronto area would be covered, and with an uncertain signal. This is not good enough. Because of the urgent need for this local Toronto station, which in a sense would be for central-southern Ontario, I ask that the CRTC be directed to widen the terms of the hearing so as to ascertain whether channel 13 can be returned to Toronto and, if it can be, to choose an applicant to provide such service.

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have listened carefully to the comments of the hon. member for Peel South (Mr. Chappell) in support of his motion concerning the radio and television situation in the city of Toronto. I agree with and endorse fully his remarks about U.S. intervention into that market, about Canadian content

and about the needs of that important city, and about the three million residents of the city who are indeed a considerable number and not by any means an insignificant force in Canadian politics today.

While I sympathize with him as a Toronto member and with his desire to do more for his people, I have to take a totally opposite tack and suggest that while the consideration of the needs of the people of the city of Toronto is a very valid one for those who come from there, it is important that this chamber understand as well that there is a vast land beyond the limits of that city. The people who reside in the other parts of the country—and I represent a substantial city that falls within that category—have come to feel that all the regulations imposing restrictions on radio listening or television viewing, on Canadian content, and so on, apply to them more than the privileged people who live within a few miles of the U.S. border. They are meant not for those who live in Montreal, Toronto and all cities that lie along the U.S.-Canadian border, but they impose hardship for those of us whose residence happens to be so far from the border that we cannot get U.S. programs by the simple expedient of putting a special antenna on our roof. The result is that people in my constituency, and they are typical of people in many other cities, feel that they are treated in a second-class manner. We feel that we are being treated as second-class citizens in this respect.

I am a supporter of the chairman of the CRTC and recognize that he has a very difficult task to carry out. I believe that Pierre Juneau is doing a thorough, conscientious and courageous job in that capacity and so are the members of his commission. I support their motivations in respect of Canadian content. I also believe in them and support their endeavours respecting the very necessary policy of regulatory control on cable television and community antenna systems which are part of the technology being adopted for the future of this country. Our failure to control technology will cause us dismay and disgrace in years to come, because technology will control us if we do not control it.

I accept the difficulties that they experience and the time they have to take to formulate a policy of control. But I say to them that while they are doing that task, they must remember that a great many of our citizens find themselves close to the U.S. border and therefore in a situation where, without regard to the policies, motivations or controls of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, they are receiving all the programming they can handle. People who are far from the border cannot receive these programs; they are dependent on the commission to bring programs to them. That is a viewpoint which does not seem to be adequately heard in the circles in which it needs to be heard.

The motion that is before us this afternoon is a typical one, namely, that the board should be holding hearings in the city of Toronto to expand the service there. I say that the service in Toronto is already adequate if not more than adequate. What the commissioners should be doing is concentrating all their efforts on getting on with the policy of controlling cable diffusion of broadcasting signals. They should examine the situation in my constit-

[Mr. Chappell.]