

Radio and Television

concerning French broadcasting stations in the province of Ontario. At page 240 we find these words:

In the province of Ontario, a new and rather gratifying phenomenon of Canadian life was discovered by the commission. It is the growing acceptance, at least by the more alert and reflective elements of the community, of the French language as a haven of cultural growth for the whole of Canadian life. From several English speaking sources came the request that a way be found to bring the French radio network service to Toronto.

At this point let me quote a portion of the brief presented by the Ontario modern language teachers' association which reads in part as follows:

The French language occupies an important position on the curriculum of all secondary schools in the province of Ontario. Its prominent place on the high school program was likely due at one time to the proximity of this province to the province of Quebec. As time went on, however, the study of French proved itself as an effective academic discipline to the extent that it has all but taken over the position once held by Latin. An estimated 80 per cent of the students proceeding to university elect French as the language to be studied in their final year in the secondary school.... We do realize that so much of the teachers' time is required for the formal academic study of the French language that insufficient attention is often given to making certain that each of the 35 or 40 pupils in each class attains a satisfactory fluency in speaking French. Nevertheless, those students who, after completing the French courses in our high schools, find themselves in a French environment, develop very quickly a fluency equal to the needs of ordinary communication. An opportunity to hear French-language broadcasts of a popular nature which stimulate greatly the students' interest in the spoken language and would be only slightly less effective than an extended visit among French people.... The enthusiasm with which students speak of French programs which they have heard by radio or in the cinema seems to indicate that such broadcasts would enjoy a large and receptive audience particularly in the urban centres.

Having quoted this brief, I have no hesitation in saying that it does a great deal to weld and unite the various parts which go to make up our country. I should like to pause here for a moment and contrast that statement with another statement which was made by the grand master of the Orange Lodge in Montreal recently as reported in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* of June 27, 1958:

Leslie H. Saunders of Toronto, grand master of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America, says he is opposed to compulsory courses in French language for Ontario schools.

He said: "Canada is not a bilingual country. It is English-speaking with a bilingual province."

Addressing the annual conference of the lodge yesterday he said French and English language courses might be of value in Quebec, where most of the population was French Canadian. But even this province had 500,000 English-speaking persons.

Mr. Maloney: Why do you not read the editorial they wrote about it, too?

Mr. Chevrier: Unfortunately I have not got it. I read the statement as I found it in this press clipping.

Mr. Deschatelets: Why does the hon. member for Parkdale not make his own speeches?

Mr. Chevrier: I was going to say that fortunately for this country the grand master represents a very small and not too important group in Canada.

Mr. Bigg: Why quote him, then?

Mr. Chevrier: I am sure that the vast majority of the membership of this house does not approve of that kind of statement because have we not had a repeated example in this house on the part of various ministers and the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) himself of a desire to speak the French language? I was in Quebec not long ago and listened to the Prime Minister speak for some time in the French language and I believe he must really have imposed upon himself a strict course of study of the language in order for him to speak for the length of time he did on the important subject he discussed. The same may be said of my leader who not only is able to speak French correctly but who understands the language as does the hon. member for Bonaville-Twillington (Mr. Pickersgill). I put those two attitudes in juxtaposition because I believe they dramatically illustrate two points of view, one of them fast disappearing in this country. I would even invite my hon. friend, the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Small) to some day rise in the house and regale the house in the French language. I am sure, if he wanted to, he could do so. In so doing he would be following along the lines of many prominent members of his own party.

Let me now ask this question, Mr. Speaker. What is the future of radio broadcasting in Canada? My leader dealt with that at some length and most efficiently. All I need say in that respect is that the Fowler report on broadcasting shows that conditions in Canada have changed very materially since 1936. At that time there were 75 radio stations in Canada, television had not yet appeared on the scene and the total cost for the public broadcasting system was approximately \$2 million. Today there are 189 radio stations, 38 television stations and the annual public cost amounts to approximately \$40 million. The task of regulating and supervising the Canadian broadcasting system, is, therefore, a different one from that envisaged in those years.

Now that a substantial Canadian system for both radio and television has been created, a different task lies ahead. Accordingly, it is