

The most important section of the bill, in my opinion, is the one granting the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation \$30,000,000 over the next five years. I want to ask the leader of the government here (Hon. Mr. Robertson) if he can tell us in how many years of the corporation's activities there has been a surplus and in how many years there has been a deficit. Though we are asked to vote a definite sum of \$30,000,000 over the next five years, I feel that we do not know the total amount that will have to be provided. I cannot understand just what the connection is between the government, the minister and the C.B.C., when that organization can run up a deficit of a million dollars or more in a year.

Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt: Honourable senators, I wish to make a few remarks about the programs carried by stations of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Some of these programs to which I have listened are, in my view, absolutely immoral. Just two or three weeks ago I was listening with my family to a broadcast sponsored by C.B.C. in which organized adultery was the theme. My daughter remarked to me, "If that is the way of life today between men and women, I prefer to stay with you for the rest of my life". For this reason I have had to cut off stations carrying such programs.

As the leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) said a few moments ago, we cannot answer what comes to us by radio. Today we are hearing it with our ears, tomorrow we will be seeing it with our eyes, and we cannot disavow what the speakers on distasteful programs are saying to us.

The people of Canada are paying for the operation of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and they have a right to expect programs that are educational rather than depraved. This nationally-owned broadcasting system should educate and not scandalize our families.

Hon. Norman P. Lambert: Honourable senators, in attempting to discuss the subject of this bill at this time one does so with a depressing sense of futility. A lengthy discussion on this legislation took place in the committee of the other house, and certain phases of it have received a good deal of attention. But with the limitation of time facing us, I take for granted that there is really nothing we can say here or ask in committee at this time which would substantially affect the passage or the application of this measure. Nevertheless, if one has an interest at all in the matter, he is in duty bound to raise certain points which the bill attempts to emphasize.

In connection with this legislation and some other bills to follow a great deal has been made of the report of the Massey Commission. I think that the free reference that is made to the recommendations contained in the Massey Report is liable to blind our eyes and confuse our minds as to the realities and true significance of this and other bills.

This measure contains nothing that requires in its support quotations from the Massey Report. True, the report made certain recommendations about the administration of radio in this country, but with all due respect to the report, I do not think that its recommendations have been made as a result of a great deal of the evidence that was heard on the subject.

The whole concept of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as we know it today is a matter of evolution. When in 1935 the corporation was envisaged, I was very much interested in the form it would take, and I was favourable to the form it did take, namely, a Canadian broadcasting corporation whose chief objective was to be an agency for unity in this country. It was to bring to those parts of the country which were less populated than the central provinces of Ontario and Quebec the unifying benefits of national broadcasts. It was to give to the people of the prairies and other isolated points contact with central Canada by means of a free broadcasting system.

Those objectives were, I think, all to the good, and for the first ten years they genuinely served in bringing about a degree of unity from one end of the country to the other. That unity is, in a large part, attributable to the work that has been done by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

There are, however, two phases of the problem that should be discussed and analysed further even than the committee of the other house was able to carry its inquiry. I refer to the technical side of radio and television, involving as it does such matters as wave lengths and technical regulations and controls over the operation of radio stations. This technical phase of the operation should, I think, be controlled centrally, in the same way as railways, for instance, are controlled by the Board of Transport Commissioners. In my opinion there should be an institution which would see to it that all of the technical requirements of radio in this country are wisely administered.

The other phase which has given rise to a strong division of opinion in Canada has to do with the power of radio and television being centred in a federal instrument of the state. I think that has to do with the quality and the character of the programs that are