

rights always take precedence over human rights unless the law is so clear and so exact that there is no room for anyone to rule in favour of property and against the individual. Unless it is crystal clear, then the worker will believe, as his experience dictates, that he will lose because that is the principle upon which our laws have been based. Hopefully, our charter of rights will start us in slightly another direction in order to balance the ledger. However, it is vitally important for the minister, in order to have credibility with the labour force, to make it clear that he understands that attitude and feeling which exists amongst hundreds of thousands of people in the Canadian work force.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am not hung up on wording, and the minister has shown before that neither is he if we believe we can solve the problem. With the exception of that one little word I quite agree that the wording as presented by the government is preferable to that submitted by my own party. However, it is important to make it crystal clear to those administering this law that they should follow the intent, and if people are in fact absent and short of that 1,000 hours by virtue of sickness, injury, disability, any good cause whatsoever, they shall be considered to have worked that 1,000 hours, if that is the reason they are short, and be provided with the benefits which this bill provides.

I will conclude with one last and recent example, Mr. Speaker. Just this past year there was a clause in the Canada Labour Code which said in effect—and said it much more clearly than this bill—that if a supervisor refused to work simply because he refused to cross a picket line, he could not be disciplined or lose his job because of that. The Canada Labour Code was crystal clear and it took many months to get justice for those who had lost their jobs, their income, and had their lives disrupted. That was crystal clear. We hope that people in this unfortunate situation will not have to suffer those kinds of delays because of pride and one little word.

● (2200)

**An hon. Member:** Ten o'clock.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The Chair recognizes that the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen) is standing in his place and presumably wishes to continue the debate, but it is now ten o'clock and accordingly I conclude that the House does not wish to have Motions Nos. 13 and 14 put before it.

---

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

### Adjournment Debate

COMMUNICATIONS—RECEPTION OF TELEVISION SIGNALS FROM CANCOM SATELLITE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, on November 24, I put a question to the Minister of Communications (Mr. Fox) concerning the reception of American satellite television signals by local cable television systems in northern Canada. A number of applications are before the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission at the present time to provide local cable television service to many northern communities using the CanCom satellite. The unfortunate part of that whole system is that only four Canadian independent television stations will be received on that system.

My question to the minister was to inquire whether those local cable television systems being established in many northern communities will be able to continue to receive the signals from the American TV satellites, such as the superstations in Chicago and Atlanta and the home box office TV stations.

My reason for putting this question to the minister is that a number of communities in northern Canada have been receiving these American satellite signals in the past, and they have established a cable system and are distributing them to Canadian viewers. Most of them have not been prosecuted in the past, and of course it would be ridiculous for the government to move and do that at the present time, when these communities have no other television available to them. I think the problem will be that when these applications which are before the CRTC at the present time are reviewed, we will find that the installation charge and the monthly service fee will be so high that, without the additional American stations being provided to this cable system, they just will not be able to make a go of it.

It seems to me that if the minister does not change the policy and clarify it in the very near future, there will simply be rank discrimination against the northern communities.

We now have the policy in southern Canada for all of the major cities such as Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Vancouver and so on, under which they are allowed to receive the three American networks plus the PBS system from the United States on the three plus one formula; but in northern Canada, there is no such provision. There could be rank discrimination against the cable operators in the northern communities and, beyond that, this would just make the situation impossible for most of these cable operators who have applied to have a package which is appealing enough to sell to these small communities. For instance, there are applications before the CRTC for four communities along the north shore of Lake Huron; that is, Iron Bridge, Spanish, Massey and Nairn Centre. The Northern Cable Services is requiring an installation fee of \$200, and a monthly service charge of \$15 per month. That will not provide any American channels, whereas, in the south, most cable operators provide the three plus one formula.

● (2205)

I hope the minister will clarify this arrangement and provide the same kind of service to northern communities; that is,