

Supply—C.B.C.

levelled at them for giving repeat performances over television networks.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am very suspicious. I am very suspicious of the suggestion that anybody else except the C.B.C. is going to provide the kind of programs Canadians are interested in. If we had a network set up by the private broadcasters, as is suggested, I am sure they would buy the cheapest and the least and charge all the traffic would bear. So in closing I should like to say this. If we want the kind of programs that I am sure the majority of Canadians want we are going to be obliged first of all to maintain the C.B.C. and second, we are going to be obliged to pay for it.

Mr. Goode: Mr. Chairman, having regard to what was said with regard to the Fowler commission by my hon. friend who has just taken his seat, may I say to him that I do not think there is any need to be suspicious of the motives behind the setting up of the Fowler commission. On May 14 of this year, because I hold strong views with regard to the C.B.C. and private television in Canada, I appeared before that commission in Vancouver—at my own expense, incidentally—and presented a brief setting forth my own ideas. After that brief had been read, Mr. Fowler and his associates of the commission questioned me for 90 minutes, an hour and a half, on my views and on other people's views with respect to Canadian and United States television.

Although I am certainly not an expert on television, either on its technical points or its public aspect, I came away from the commission with this idea, namely that if the government had ever appointed an effective commission on any matter in the last decade, this was the time they had done it. Certainly I do not know Mr. Fowler outside of my 90 minutes before the commission, but I came away with the opinion that here was one of the finest open-minded Canadians who had ever been given an appointment by any government. Mr. Fowler showed—and I have been on two television committees in this house—an understanding not only of my views but of the difficulties encountered by the C.B.C. He argued with me with regard to some of the views that have just been expressed by my friend the hon. member for Humboldt-Melfort.

I can assure the hon. gentleman that I came out of that commission meeting not knowing the final viewpoint of Mr. Fowler on anything he had asked me about. He is a shrewd businessman. He understands the position of the C.B.C. and of the private broadcasters. He questioned me with far more ability than I would ever show in my

answers, but he indicated a friendly understanding of the whole situation. What the report of the Fowler commission will be, of course, no one knows. But when that report comes down I am quite sure it will be a fair report, and one that will have taken into consideration completely my views and those of the hon. gentlemen of the C.C.F.

Mr. Bryson: I wonder whether the hon. gentleman would allow me to interrupt for a moment?

Mr. Goode: Yes.

Mr. Bryson: I should like to put him straight on this one point. I am certainly not critical of the Fowler commission as such. I am very happy with the attitude, as I read it, of Mr. Fowler toward the whole question of the C.B.C.

Mr. Goode: The hon. gentleman was suspicious of the government's motive. I thought that was what he said.

Mr. Bryson: Yes.

Mr. Goode: I could understand what the hon. gentleman had said about that.

Mr. Knowles: That is a different story.

Mr. Goode: Before I go into my little discussion—and most hon. members know what it is going to be about before I do so, because I have mentioned it previously in this house—I want to say this. I have no inclination, and certainly I am not going to do so, of criticizing the C.B.C. this afternoon. I have criticized it in two different committees. I have taken a view that I think has been opposed to party policy on this side of the house. However, it has been sincere criticism, and that criticism has been fought in committee by Mr. Dunton. I think I have come to the point where, although I see his viewpoint, I will never agree with him as long as conditions remain as they are at the moment in Canadian television.

There is one thing I want to say—because I am going to mention to you, Mr. Chairman, the granting of a licence for a television station in Burnaby—to my friends of the C.C.F. There are at least three members of that party from British Columbia who are within hearing of my voice at the moment. Exercising their judgment they have appointed a gentleman to run against me in Burnaby-Richmond. He was sponsored by the present member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, and I think is being advised by him. I shall have some things to say in regard to another matter on another occasion, but I do say to the hon. gentlemen across from me that I have been accused by the official C.C.F. spokesman in my riding of speaking on