

Canadian Broadcasting Policy

the necessary funds to do the kind of broadcasting we think it should do with Canadian talent. There is also a responsibility on the private broadcasters in this connection.

There is one section in the report which I think is quite significant and which has been largely overlooked by the people who comment on television. Some Canadian private broadcasters face what I believe is unfair competition from outside the country. They are facing competition from people who are not required to meet the regulations concerning Canadian broadcasting. These competitors are taking some of the advertising money which rightly should go to Canadian broadcasters so they can do the kind of job we want them to do. I think this is one area at which we need to look. This problem is not unlike the one which came up a few years ago when we were discussing the question of Canadian publications and the O'Leary report.

I simply conclude, Mr. Chairman, by repeating that one cannot argue with the general principles of broadcasting outlined by the minister in her brief remarks. One can also agree with many of the things said by the hon. member for Prince. I think we will all agree that Canadian broadcasting should be carried on more by Canadian talent than it has been and it will be our task as legislators to see that the broadcasters do this and that they have the means to do it.

• (4:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Chairman, we are being asked today to take a stand on a resolution which reads as follows:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to implement a broadcasting policy for Canada, to amend the Radio Act in consequence thereof and to enact other consequential and related provisions.

On reading this resolution on the order paper, I was somewhat surprised. I wondered what the government was doing in that field because every time we have asked the present Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh) or her predecessors to account for certain doings of the C.B.C., the minister replied that the C.B.C. was a crown company and that the government should not intervene so as to respect freedom in public affairs.

Well, the introduction of this resolution gives us the hope that very shortly we will have at least something to say about the actions of this crown corporation which penetrates into every circle and every home.

[Mr. Prittie.]

Like my predecessors, I recognize that it is quite difficult to express a definite opinion on this resolution because it does not say much, and the Secretary of State did not give much information in introducing it. However, I am convinced that when the bill is before us, we will have a better idea of the government's objectives concerning this crown corporation.

Mr. Chairman, a few moments ago I said that not only the members of our group in this corner of the house but many others have asked the government on various occasions for information about the activities of the C.B.C. Those requests resulted from protests made by responsible people in public life who were shocked sometimes by the kind of programming offered. In fact, in 1965 a group of 76,000 women protested against the immorality of the C.B.C., as reported in *Le Devoir* on March 25, 1965, and I quote:

Seventy-six thousand Canadian women have signed a petition which was handed over yesterday to the Prime Minister, requesting the C.B.C. to stop propagating "perversion, pornography, free love, blasphemy, narcotics, violence and crime."

Those women want the C.B.C. to "clean up" its television programs. The petition, which was signed by women from all the provinces, requests Parliament to "put a stop to the domination of a minority that takes advantage of television to propagate perversion, pornography, free love, blasphemy, narcotics, violence and crime."

At about the same time, the Knights of Columbus, meeting in convention, proposed a resolution that read partly as follows:

Resolved to protest strongly to the Secretary of State against the policy of the C.B.C. of allowing in certain programs communistic leftists, agnostics, terrorists and other promoters of discord to encourage class struggle, contempt for religious, civil and judicial authority.

Resolved to ask the federal government to set up an efficient censorship at the C.B.C. to eliminate at least from our government networks those programs glorifying crime, violence and immorality in all its forms.

Almost at the same time, Hon. Frédéric Dorion, chief justice of the superior court of Quebec, stated:

Unfortunately, I am also aware that all these efforts to maintain order and protect morality are too often thwarted by certain publicity media such as television for instance which often put on programs so immoral and indecent that honest viewers, particularly fathers and mothers become indignant.

This communication medium which is now in almost every home, bringing in both word and picture, has become a need and an extraordinary medium of propaganda. For anyone heartily interested in protecting Christian principles which, whatever may be said, are still fortunately the framework of our society, it will be sufficient to view and listen to scenes such as we witness