

Supply—C.B.C.

devoted to the various classifications. For instance, I think that people enjoy possibly the lighter types of music more than they enjoy the heavier types. As a result, three times as many hours were devoted to that type of music, and so on. I was particularly pleased to see that a great deal of Canadian talent was used last year and that Canadian talent was given a chance. In all, it is reported that 1,004 orchestra members were used, all Canadians, and that 22 of the 26 conductors were Canadians. However, the thought that strikes me about this particular part of the report is this. While these engagements were provided for over 1,000 talented musicians, I am wondering how many of them actually presented more than one program. I notice here that over 12 programs in 12 cities across Canada were presented during the summer months. I would think that possibly that figure of 1,004 could be reduced by two-thirds, and most of them from Toronto or Montreal.

I would also hope that the Fowler commission, when it makes its report, will take into consideration what effect private radio and television would have on the use of talent in this country. In the field of drama I might say that the corporation is trying very hard but that, in a great many instances, I believe they are falling short. I have in mind particularly one play on television that I thought should never have been produced. That one is brought to my mind at the present time. I think it was called "The Eye". There was quite a garbled-up television program about somebody's subconscious mind and his conscious mind. It was so bad that I finally turned it off and listened to one of the Buffalo stations. As I say, with the money that we are spending, I cannot understand why programs of this type should be produced at all. I think the Canadian people would be more interested in fiction, if it has to be fiction, that is built around some of our historical events like confederation or perhaps the Northwest Mounted Police. So far as the Northwest Mounted Police are concerned, the only program I saw having to do with them was one which emanated from the United States. I could go on and elaborate on the programming of the C.B.C. but I should like to turn to the financing because, in my opinion, that is the most alarming problem that is confronting us today.

In the year ended March 31, 1956, as has been pointed out by other speakers, the C.B.C. had an income of \$38,942,000 and their expenditures were \$38,572,000 before depreciation. For programming and engineering, this corporation spent \$32,347,000, yet the income

from commercial broadcasting was only a little over \$9 million. Let us take a look at the picture over the past four years, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956. In the year ended March, 1953, the income of the C.B.C. was \$15,359,000. Television was just commencing that year and the expenditures were not too heavy in that field. It was in that year, too, that we collected some \$5,700,000 from radio licence fees which the Canadian people detested so much. In that year the expenditures on both radio and television only amounted to \$14,304,000.

Then, in the year ended March, 1954, the revenues of the C.B.C. jumped to \$27,430,000 and the expenditures jumped to \$19,986,000. In the year ended March, 1955, the revenues jumped again to \$34,700,000, but the expenditure also jumped to \$29,100,000, an increase of roughly \$9 million. As we all know, last year the increase was \$9.5 million. Now, in addition to all these yearly expenditures, the operations of the C.B.C., as reported in 1955, cost an additional \$19 million that the government of Canada lent for capital expansion. There was another \$8,500,000 last year, bringing the total to \$27,500,000. Of this amount, only a paltry \$72,000 has been so far paid back to the government. Now we are faced with an expected deficit which this parliament is going to have to vote, and I am quite prepared to go along with it. But I want to bring to the attention of hon. members and impress upon them that this will add another \$12 million on top of the already existing debt.

With operating expenditures of this order—I do not know whether the minister mentioned them in his figures earlier, but they must be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$45 million or \$50 million—I should like to know where we are going with this monster. I feel that this corporation has extracted \$29 million from the taxpayers' pockets through the sales of radio and television sets and parts. There will be a net loss of millions of dollars and that is going to put us in a position where we have to take some drastic action. Where are you going to get over \$30 million next year? There are only three ways that I can fathom for the C.B.C. to raise the money. First of all, there is the present system of excise and sales taxes on radio and television sets. Then, there are the taxpayers upon whom you could impose a licence fee but, as I said before, the Canadian people protested it so much when it was \$2.50. The third way is for the corporation to carry on an efficient business or get out of the business entirely.

In the report it is stated that the market for television is fast becoming saturated. I believe this to be true to a certain extent,