

Non-Canadian Publications

Technical advice we have had enough. After all, we had enjoyed satisfactory TV reception long before the CBC even knew about us. What we expected the CBC to do was to accelerate their accelerated coverage plan just a little more, mainly for the fiscal and political reasons outlined in my resumé to you.

We don't think that the total expenditure of about \$1,200 would have bankrupted the CBC, but it surely would have created a lot of appreciation from a number of taxpayers who in the past years have contributed at least this much to the CBC as their share of income taxes on top of the \$15 they pay annually for the upkeep and maintenance of our signal translator.

That shows the kind of thing going on in my riding.

I mentioned Grand Forks and I mentioned Midway. Christina Lake does not even have TV. They cannot get CTV or CBC-TV. They have to rely on broadcasts from the United States.

Let's look at Princeton. Princeton is a fairly good sized city in my riding. And what do they have by way of TV? They have private enterprise repeaters broadcasting equipment up in the mountains. They were supposed to subscribe for one of these and pay for it. They have CTV equipment up there, but it is strictly on cable. That means that only those who can afford to hook up to cable, only those in the area where the cable is, can have that kind of broadcast.

My hon. friend from Bruce-Grey talked about the accelerated coverage plan. If any people deserve a broadcasting station, a CBC-TV station built under the accelerated coverage program, it is the people of Princeton. I ask you, what are all these goings on in Vancouver, and what has the kicking out of KVOS from the Vancouver area got to do with these kinds of accelerated programs?

As far as CBC radio is concerned the people in heavily populated communities like Kelowna and Penticton, where there are more than 75,000 people, have been trying for 30 years to get a CBC radio station in the area. They have now been promised it. The subject was supposed to come up just when the CRTC meeting in Vancouver was adjourned. After 30 years of constant bickering and of trying to get the government to put it in, they are now going to get it. I do not know if it is to come under the accelerated program, but I do know that we have been told that we are going to get, in 1978, a French TV station in the Okanagan area. It did not take long to come in, certainly not 30 years. It is to come in very quickly under the accelerated program. But we are not getting, and we have not been told we are getting, TV stations in our border areas where there are a lot of deserving people and where they must rely to a great degree on American broadcasts.

I thank the House, Madam Speaker, for allowing me time to speak, and I hope that some of the members opposite from eastern Canada now know what goes on in British Columbia.

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Madam Speaker—

Mr. Blais: Let's hear about the real British Columbia, Stu.

Mr. Leggatt: I agree with much that the hon. member for Okanagan Boundary (Mr. Whittaker) said about the provision of CBC programming for border areas, and about the accelerated program provisions. However, I suggest that

[Mr. Whittaker.]

we should direct our attention to the amendment before us and consider if we are to vote for or against it. The amendment would leave open the opportunity for station KVOS to negotiate a special deal. That is what we are talking about at this stage of the debate. To be consistent, we opposed the special deal worked out with *Reader's Digest* and on the same principle we oppose a special deal for KVOS in terms of its somewhat unique position in broadcasting in British Columbia.

● (1520)

I guess we could get to the history of KVOS. They entered the market very early. They attempted, I think, to be a good corporate citizen in their Canadian operation, but we are still faced with a fundamental problem and it is that KVOS is an FCC-licensed station which is licensed to broadcast to the Bellingham area. It is not licensed to broadcast to the lower mainland. So unless and until we have an across-the-border convention where there is some kind of joint licensing provisioning, so that the market area for the individual television stations is determined in the licence, the hope of making this kind of special arrangement is very slim indeed.

I want to go on record about something else which is connected to this. I oppose the provision under the CRTC for cable deletion. I think it is wrong that American programming with advertising should be arbitrarily deleted by Canadian cable companies which are allowed to substitute their own advertising into the programs.

I know the law says that there is no title to the cable signal. But I think it is offensive to most individuals, to their sense of propriety and morality, that programs that are produced at a cost should arbitrarily have the advertiser, who in fact helps pay for the production of those programs, suffer by having his advertising arbitrarily pulled off and Canadian advertising inserted. Surely to God many of us in this House have already suggested that we have a look at the whole question of broadcasting on both sides of the border, and it has to be looked at in terms consistent with the Canadian nationalism problem. Nevertheless the idea of arbitrarily deleting advertising on cable is offensive to the majority of Canadians who have a sense of what is right and what is fair.

Again the amendment to some extent is an amendment to protect a private broadcaster, so I want to make sure that what I am saying is related to the motion. I must say that the Conservative position on the question of private broadcasting is one which is giving me some concern. Therefore, like the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), I thought I would do some digging on this thing and I went back to an MP from British Columbia. His name was Mr. Fraser, and it was in 1935 that he spoke for the Conservative party in British Columbia. He said the general complaint throughout the province was that they could only get reception from United States stations.

There was a plea from many Conservative members in British Columbia in those days for the expansion of public broadcasting, for the development of communication in this country between east and west to resist the very heavy cultural pressures that tend to run north and south. In fact all he was doing was supporting his leader at that