

Interim Supply

responsibilities of the C.B.C., and surely we could go one step further, because the national film board is now spending \$670,900 for films produced specifically for television.

We have all these things which are duplicating each other. I expect the national film board is growing each year, too, because we have to interpret Canadians to Canadians. In other words, we have to interpret ourselves to ourselves. Of course, once you get a good job under the government working for the national film board you are not going to sit down and wonder how you can cut down your appropriation; you are going to sit down and wonder how you can build a little empire for yourself. We have seen the C.B.C. grow. They have a lot of things they would still like to do. They would like to put up buildings in Montreal and Toronto and I am sure these will be magnificent edifices. I am also sure that if private enterprise was offered this network they would find very quickly that they did not need these magnificent edifices at all—that it could do at a quarter of the cost what the C.B.C. has been doing, and that the amount of commercial revenue the C.B.C. is now taking in would very nearly cover the starting cost for a new network.

This is basic economics and a basic re-assessment is needed of where we are going in this broadcast field. We have to sit down and take a look at it, and do so right now. Are we going to continue this policy which was established in the 'thirties, this policy which said we needed a public broadcasting system in Canada? I agree that in the 'thirties we did, and maybe even up until 10 years ago we did. Maybe up to five years ago we did. But the time has come when the government of Canada is subsidizing General Motors or anybody else to advertise its products on a national television network. This in essence is what we are doing.

It is very fine to talk, to say what you like about drama and everything else. Some hon. members were saying yesterday that we were not fit judges of what should be on television, anyway. I agree. We should not even be bothered with it. We set up the board of broadcast governors to control broadcasting; we do not want to be concerned. Indeed we are very foolish if we are concerned because, as the hon. member for Calgary North said, there is really no control whatsoever. The ordinary person in Canada believes parliament does have control. Constituents say to us: "Why do you allow the C.B.C. to do this?" We tell them we do not have any control over

[Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson).]

the corporation, and they wonder what we are doing. But we have no control over the C.B.C. and we will have no control whether we have an inquiry now or at any time in the future. We will have a continuing, spiralling increase in costs, because they want to go into colour television. Imagine what is going to happen when they go into colour television: they will probably then have to rebuild all the facilities they now have, because they will not be just right to suit a government corporation.

Mr. Woolliams: What about the Pearson film?

Mr. Horner (Jasper-Edson): The Pearson film, of course, is a very good example and one of the prime reasons why it is time to cut off the C.B.C. from programming entirely. The C.B.C. should then be relegated to dealing with the technical side of things, to ensure that the people in the more remote areas of Canada have communication in both television and radio. We have this now, in a sense, in asking the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. to build our microwave networks; we are asking private industry to build these networks. All I am suggesting is that we should go one step further. Let us be sensible and business-like; let us take this emotional nonsense about programming out of the House of Commons and give it to the board set up to regulate broadcasting. Let us forget about this spiralling, empire building organization the C.B.C. has become. I am sure there are other government departments that could move into the building on Bronson avenue here in Ottawa; there are other government departments that could take over the empty buildings of the C.B.C. I am sure that anybody worth his salt who is now with the C.B.C. can get a job in the private broadcasting industry. If he cannot, he had better look to his laurels and pull up his socks.

Can we as a nation and as a country afford this corporation? I say, Mr. Chairman, that we cannot afford to continue with this \$100 million a year plaything that does not do anything except annoy the majority of the people of Canada. I know there are many organizations and people in Canada who say the C.B.C. is great. In our farm communities, in our own community at home, we enjoy the C.B.C. farm programs. We think they have done a service along this line. But there is absolutely no reason why the national film board could not take over this portion of the functions of the corporation and provide these films to private networks. After all, the