

Canadian Broadcasting Policy

Mr. Orlikow: I am not going to do that because I have some thoughts about what ought to be contained in the bill and about what the course of broadcasting should be. It is not my fault that the hon. lady took as long as she did to bring in this legislation and I do not think that the 20 minutes during which I intend to speak on the resolution will really affect the introduction of the bill or the course of the debate.

There are, I believe, a number of questions which have to be faced. We might have faced them today had the minister given us an indication of the basic principles to be embodied in the bill. What, for example, will be the role of the Board of Broadcast Governors or whatever agency is to be made responsible for setting the rules of broadcasting? I am satisfied on the basis of the evidence available to me that in the past the board has not been given the authority required to do its job. What authority will be contained in the new legislation to assist the board in its task? Again, what will be the relationship between the Board of Broadcast Governors and the C.B.C.? Will the C.B.C. be able to continue to operate as a virtually independent body, as seems to have been the case up to now, ignoring the directions or orders of the Board of Broadcast Governors? Will the B.B.G. be authorized to tell the private broadcasting stations that they must live up to their commitments?

[Translation]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. Before adjourning the business of this committee, could I be allowed to indicate the subject matter of the questions to be considered tonight on the adjournment motion.

The hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand): Duties of the Company of Young Canadians; the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. McCleave): Air Transport—Canadian Pacific Airlines and the Atlantic provinces; the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Mather): Confederation—Opinion poll in Quebec.

[English]

Mr. McIlraith: Before you see the clock, Mr. Chairman, may I ask whether the hon. member has in mind concluding his remarks in a relatively short time? If he does, would it be the wish of the house that he be permitted to conclude them now?

Mr. Orlikow: I expect to take the 20 minutes which the rules permit me to take, just as other hon. members have done.

27053—202½

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): May I suggest, since I believe all hon. members are anxious to see the resolution adopted, that we allow the hon. member for Winnipeg North to conclude and then give the bill first reading?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed that we do not see the clock and hear the hon. member for Winnipeg North?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

• (6:00 p.m.)

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, the minister said, and I think the hon. member for Prince repeated, that broadcasting is important and that it is something which touches every Canadian. Broadcasting, and certainly television, can and should be an important factor in maintaining and building the Canadian identity. This is an easy thing to say. It is a much more difficult thing to put into practice. The developments in television and the tremendous cost of television have made the problem much greater.

I should like to join with other members in paying tribute to the tremendous job which the C.B.C. has done over the years. I suppose it is fair to say there is hardly a city in Canada which would have a symphony orchestra today were it not for the great support which serious musicians from all parts of Canada have received from the C.B.C. The C.B.C. hired live musical talent when the private radio stations simply ignored anything but records, and records of not a very high calibre.

In a similar way C.B.C. radio in particular and C.B.C. television to a lesser degree have been responsible for the promotion and development of Canadian drama. We have produced in Canada a large number of highly competent, highly skilled and technically trained actors, writers, producers and directors. So successful have we been that many of these persons have moved from Canada to much more profitable parts of the world for this kind of talent, such as New York, Los Angeles and London. I do not have sufficient time to put on the record all the names or even a small fraction of the names of the people who have left. Also I do not for a moment suggest that we ought to do anything to stop them leaving. I am happy to see Canadians succeed in the field of drama and entertainment in the United States and in Great Britain. Most of the people who leave do not do so because they would not prefer to stay in Canada but simply because the C.B.C.,