

Supply—Secretary of State

I make the statement that there should be an investigation of that organization to let them realize that the people who are paying the money have the right to call the tune, particularly in view of the situation which now exists where television sports spectaculars are going into theatres and such places by means of closed circuits.

I should like to find out a few things about this system. The hon. gentleman who used to report for the C.B.C. is in the house. I recall when he was appointed to that responsible position, and he advised that he did not own a television set. I thought that showed the good sense of the hon. member. I rather agree with the gentleman in the United States who referred to the wasteland of television. He wants to know my opinion about the conversion of the radio station in Toronto on October 1 next year to another language. I thought this was rather generally known, but I should like to say to you, sir, that I consider the C.B.C. a cancer on the body politic of Canada. Some of the work they are doing in Toronto right now is just another cell on that cancerous growth. We have to stop it soon, and we should stop it right now. There should be a rigid investigation of the C.B.C. I do not believe the minister who reports for the C.B.C. in this house should stand up and say:

I do not think that anyone in this house of any party would seriously argue that there should be allowed to take place any development that it is within the power of this parliament to control or to legislate about, which would indirectly undermine what has over a period of 40 years—indeed ever since the beginning of broadcasting, or licensed broadcasting, assumed any real importance in our community life—been regarded as a matter of national importance, a matter perhaps affecting the very existence of our country as a separate entity.

An hon. Member: Who said that?

Mr. Cowan: I am quoting the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, as reported on page 5279 of *Hansard* for November 29, 1963. I might point out that no reference is made there to the newspapers and magazines that have gone out of business in the last 30 years as a result of radio and television taking the advertising from them. It was the newspapers and magazines that built this nation and provided the cohesion that there is today. Nobody worried about the newspapers. We had the freedom of the press, and we paid the bills. However, the C.B.C. has the freedom of the press and we pay the bills. There is a hell of a big difference between having freedom of the press and paying your own bills and having freedom of the press and having someone else pay your bills. The action taken in Toronto within the last few days is just another indication of the rotten cancer that is

[Mr. Cowan.]

on this body politic of Canada, and the sooner it is investigated right to the bottom, the better.

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Chairman, taking a look at the clock and the calendar I find that there is not too much time allowed for a discussion of these particular estimates tonight. I should like, first of all, to extend my sympathy to the hon. member for York-Humber because the actions of the Secretary of State, as house leader, have denied him the privilege of dealing with this matter before today.

I believe that the parliament of Canada gave the C.B.C. a great responsibility when that organization was established in the first instance. During the past several years, I believe C.B.C. programming has become a monstrosity, threatening the moral and cultural fibre of this nation. The influence of the United States has left its mark on the C.B.C., and it is no secret that the present management of the C.B.C. has succumbed to that influence. The result has been to accelerate the destruction of Canadian culture and values as separate and identifiable elements in world civilization. The C.B.C. is, in great measure, responsible for the relaxation which denies any responsibility to its original purposes and objectives. I believe the time has come when a real shakeup in the C.B.C. is essential, if we are to salvage anything of value to Canadian institutions and to Canadian culture.

I do not intend to utilize this opportunity tonight to document the degradation and the accompanying dangers that the present trend will undoubtedly visit upon our nation. However, I want to read a letter, which is one of many I have received from my constituents, which indicates something of what I hear as I am going across this country from time to time. The letter reads:

Dear Sir:

This is a protest against the C.B.C. plays that have been presented on television these past two years. Some are nothing but unadulterated filth and a direct waste of taxpayers money. As a mother I refuse to let any such media into our home, and find that anyone I have spoken to feels precisely the same.

Hoping you will exert whatever influence is necessary to stop this waste.

I ask the management and staff of the C.B.C. to take a look at letters of that type and then take a look at the kind of programming they have developed for the C.B.C. They should ask themselves whether they have been doing anything to enrich the culture of this nation.

Mr. Prittie: Mr. Chairman, I do not want these estimates to pass without a word on the other side. After all this "hate the C.B.C.