

Radio and Television

usual he was clear, accurate and concise in his remarks. He stated incidentally that he fully endorses the view expressed in the Fowler report, that there should be a single broadcasting system in which private stations would be the indispensable and welcome partners of the C.B.C.

The C.B.C., Mr. Speaker, has done a tremendous job throughout Canada, in setting up a truly national network. Useful assistance was given the C.B.C. in this work, by owners of private radio stations. Some time ago I received a letter from the manager of one of these private stations, who, among other things, wrote:

However before permits are issued for private T.V. stations, there should be issued requirements than has been the case, sometimes, with radio.

To begin with, the licensing authority should make sure that the applicants have the necessary capital to embark on an undertaking of this kind.

Secondly, they should make sure that applicants have the necessary know how or have had practical experience, say in the field of radio broadcasting, as evidence that they could manage a television station.

Thirdly, it should be realized that we do not want a T.V. station for the sole purpose of making money out of it, giving the public any sort of trash, but to supply good programs, suitably varied to please all tastes.

Mr. Speaker, as the television and radio systems throughout our country advertise and help to develop our culture, it is most important that these two media be controlled. In our country, radio and television broadcasts are an important part of our national heritage, and should, as I said, help to widen and to mould our national culture everywhere in this country.

In its conclusions, the Fowler report emphasizes the dual racial character of the Canadian nation; it takes into account the existence of French people in Canada as well as the economic and geographical realities of this country. Throughout its recommendations, there is an apparent concern with adequately meeting the needs of a dual race population, of a dual Canadian culture bent on remaining such. The commissioners gave a whole chapter to the necessity of extending the French network all over our country.

The reports states that "the sentiment of French Canada as expressed through the briefs heard publicly by the commission, or submitted to it for private study, was virtually unanimous in its commendation, with only minor reservations, of the general texture of the programming of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in the French language and of what was believed to be the genuine effort of the management of the C.B.C. to respond to the needs of French speaking Canadians for a distinctive broadcasting fare".

[Mr. Rouleau.]

Further on, the Fowler report cautions those who preside over the destinies of this country against certain dangers.

And yet we may owe it to Canada to test the core of resistance. National leadership is a failure when it remains blind or inert before wholesome underlying trends that are precisely in need only of enlightened or courageous leadership to come to the surface. Hence, any new departure that holds before us the vision of deeper spiritual harmony among Canadians of the two main cultural groups is one that all earnest Canadians should studiously examine.

Because of the cultural importance of broadcasting, and because we are dealing here with a national asset, as I said a moment ago, radio and television must not escape the supervision of parliament. At the present time that regulatory function is exercised by the C.B.C.'s board of governors. The Fowler report suggests to the government that this be henceforth exercised by a board of governors for radio and television composed of prominent representative Canadians, responsible to the government and not beholden to any political party. That is what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) demanded in his speech yesterday. I am convinced that such action would be satisfactory to all concerned.

The C.B.C. has an excellent record. It has been of tremendous service to the Canadian nation. And when I hear a speech such as that made yesterday by the member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, I cannot help rising in rebuttal.

Someone called my attention to an article on the subject of the C.B.C., and it occurred to me that the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm might well have drawn some inspiration from it. It was printed in a paper called *Nouvelles Illustrées*, formerly known as *Nouvelles et Potins*—

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, that is an absolute falsehood, and I would ask the hon. member for Dollard to withdraw that statement.

An hon. Member: He has not made a statement yet.

Mr. Rouleau: Mr. Speaker, I have not asserted anything. I did not say the hon. member had lifted his speech from that article; I merely said that there was in there a source of inspiration for the hon. member.

Mr. Pigeon: In no way whatever.

Mr. Denis: Neither directly nor indirectly, as Mr. Duplessis would say.

Mr. Rouleau: Mr. Speaker, *Nouvelles Illustrées* is the unofficial spokesman for the Union Nationale.