

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

make sure that an effective degree of Canadian ownership and control of C.A.T.V. installations was ensured. In the case at Napanee the applicant and his whole enterprise is 100 per cent Canadian. In fact, the announcement of the Minister of Transport on that day almost three years ago proclaims the lifting of the so-called freeze on the granting of C.A.T.V. applications. I quote some of the minister's words which can be found at the bottom of page 5799 of *Hansard* for that day:

In announcing the lifting of the so-called freeze the government wishes to emphasize that it has no desire to regulate C.A.T.V. for the sake of regulation, but merely to the minimum extent deemed necessary to maintain the Canadian identity and character of broadcasting—

I contend, and I am sure the minister agrees, that a responsible applicant, such as this one, from a resident of the municipality, especially an urban municipality, where cable facilities are economically and physically feasible, should be quite in order and that the federal Department of Transport has no right to withhold a franchise for these services providing the applicant and user of the services agrees to comply fully with the lighting and marking of his tower or mast so that it does not become a hazard to the rest of the nation by endangering the flight of aircraft.

The mayor of Napanee points out in this letter to the minister that other franchises have been granted in other towns in Ontario, and yet the Napanee franchise is refused for no good reason at all by one of our bureaucrats who uses a speech made by the minister three years ago as an irrelevant excuse for withholding this much needed service from the people of Napanee. I wish to quote the mayor's letter. It reads as follows:

It has come to my attention that one of my citizens Mr. Reginald Dawson has presented an application to your board by which he is seeking to secure a licence or franchise to instal cable T.V. in our town of Napanee.

During the last three years we have had several outside groups make contact with our council and public utilities with the idea of supplying us with this type of T.V. service, however nothing has been finalized, and we now have a local group headed by Mr. Dawson who are endeavouring to bring cable T.V. to Napanee. I might add that due to our town being located in a valley, regular T.V. reception is very, very poor and like all other growing municipalities we are anxious to have the best for our citizens.

I note with interest that Smiths Falls, also Belleville in eastern Ontario and Fergus and Elora in western Ontario have been granted a licence to instal cable T.V.

[Mr. Alkenbrack.]

Therefore I sincerely hope that you will give your support to the application that has been presented to your department from citizens of the town of Napanee.

Thank you, I remain,

Yours very truly,
Lorne A. Smart,
Mayor of Napanee.

As has been pointed out by the mayor, much of Napanee lies in a hollow between the Roblin Hill escarpment on the east and south and Piety Hill which rises at the west end of the town. The highest land is south of the Napanee River and it precludes good television reception by way of the conventional household aerials.

Many of our townsmen would subscribe to C.A.T.V. when it is available and then many would probably abandon their unsightly aerials. This application should be granted with no further delay.

I am sure the minister agrees that now this franchise should be favourably considered and granted, and I respectfully request him to do so.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in representing the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) I must take issue with the hon. member in his condemnation of one of our very capable civil servants, Mr. Caton. I feel quite sure that he believes the decision he has made was in conformity with the regulations. I am in no way taking issue with the right to contest the decision itself, but I do feel that our civil servants are of a high calibre and that they make every effort to base their decisions on the regulations promulgated by parliament or by order in council.

However, I understand the hon. member has raised this question with the minister privately and the minister is looking into the matter. I understand there may be an amicable decision in respect of this application.

AGRICULTURE—CONSIDERATION BY DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF EXPROPRIATION PRINCIPLES

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I trust I will behave rather differently from the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) and will stop at the right whistle.

The question of the expropriation by governments or their agencies, both federal and provincial, is of increasing concern to farmers across Canada. So far as I am concerned, I can speak for many farmers in my constituency who have suffered from the present law