

*Canadian Broadcasting Policy*

[Translation]

**Mr. Lachance:** Mr. Chairman, I do not for a moment suppose that my remarks on the resolution before us will change the bill which will be introduced shortly for first reading. However, I want to express them in this house so that, during the debate on this piece of legislation, if an amendment is moved, we may discuss it seriously.

It would be easy for me to join the protests raised throughout Canada, especially in recent months, on the manner in which the board of broadcast governors discharged their administrative duties and also on the quality and choice of programs on our national networks, either television or radio.

At the present time, I must admit that I find a malicious pleasure in the way some so-called public affairs, cultural, educational or entertainment programs are staged by a small group of so-called intellectuals or artists—quite often of questionable taste—who have no other concern but to promote their own popularity or their personal views. I must also say that the behaviour of those individuals amuses more than it irritates me and that the escalation of their stupidity is only equal, quite often, to the complacency shown towards them by the officials of the networks and even by parliament, we must admit, who is responsible to the people for public expenditures.

This new legislation will help rectify, I hope, some gross abuses and meet our present and future needs.

However, Mr. Chairman, let me express a personal opinion about the opportunity of encouraging private enterprise to develop a network and to complete our T.V. and radio network so that we may set up a greater number of French stations in areas where the English language prevails and English stations in areas where the French language prevails.

That contribution from the private sector would of course be an excellent way to promote the French and English cultures in our country and, therefore, better understanding between all Canadians.

At the present time, Mr. Chairman, there are not enough people in some areas to set up French or English television and radio stations. Therefore, if the government went into partnership with those individuals or offered to share the cost of setting up those radio and television stations, first the private sector would make that important contribution which, one knows, is a very good thing,

and then, it would be possible to increase the number of television or radio stations.

There would not only be government participation but also the possibility of sharing in the operating profits of these television and radio stations and that is where the interesting part of the matter comes up.

It would also be appropriate, I think, that the government eventually withdraw from this joint operation with private enterprise because, in my personal view, it would be beneficial if the government were to leave as much as possible the administration and programming of the various radio and television stations, to private enterprise, while sharing administrative responsibility or having a joint administration board as is the case in the great government television and radio networks of certain countries.

Mr. Chairman, that is my suggestion. It might then be advisable, if people took up the offer, to buy back the station over a certain period or, at least, of having a first option to buy if the government were to decide to leave the ownership of such stations to private enterprise.

However, if two cultures must be disseminated throughout the entire country Mr. Chairman, a new element will necessarily have to be brought into this development and it can be achieved through private enterprise. I hope that the legislation which will be brought down will provide for the setting up of such a system.

• (5:10 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Chairman, let me say, if you will permit, that after 25 years of broadcasting experience this debate reminds me of a poem which seems appropriate to this occasion as it has been for the whole 25 year period so far as broadcasting is concerned. I cite these lines by Omar Khayyam:

Myself when young did eagerly frequent  
 Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument  
 About it and about: but evermore  
 Came out by the same door where in I went.

When I recall my experiences in the broadcasting field it seems to me that much of what has been said this afternoon has been said many times before and I suspect will be said on a great many occasions in the future. The legislation that we are to see introduced today has been a long time in coming, and I commend the minister for resisting the pressures of recent months and, indeed, even of years, to speed up the introduction of the legislation