

Non-Canadian Publications

that U.S. cable discriminates against Canadian television signals. He takes this from the CAB brief. If that is the type of research the CAB has done, I wonder about the rest of their submissions. The fact of the matter is that the FCC does not discriminate against Canadian television signals, and I challenge any member of the House to prove to the contrary. It treats all signals, U.S. and Canadian, alike. I think that had better be underlined, Madam Speaker. It treats all signals, U.S. and Canadian, alike.

● (1750)

It is indeed unfortunate that if this bill passes without amendment we will not be in a position to say the same thing. It is indeed unfortunate that the words of the minister last night imply that it will not be the same. The FCC sets rules for local and distant stations, protecting in a very limited form local stations from distant United States or Canadian stations. The protection is exactly the same. That is a sensible thing. I accept it and I think anyone who applies any reason would accept it. Of course the local station should be protected.

Let me put it another way. If I were the operator of a television station on the U.S. border I would want the Canadian government and the CRTC to treat my signals in exactly the same way the United States treats Canadian television signals. That would be all I would ask. Frankly, that is all KVOS is asking for, but I am afraid the message has just not got through to those on the other side.

Mr. Paproski: Never will.

Mr. Brisco: Precisely. Their mind is made up and they don't want to be confused with the facts.

The minister went on to state:

Traditionally our country has no frontiers and obviously, when dealing with air waves, it is still more difficult to mark the boundaries.

I could not agree with the minister more. That is a tradition that Canadians are proud of and should be proud of. I think it is a tradition many Americans are proud of. In a very real sense the people of Kootenay West are very much aware of this, perhaps more than many members of the House, because of the close liaison we have and enjoy with our American neighbours. After all, the southern boundary of my riding forms the 49th parallel.

Before we had the benefit of any signal from the CBC we received television from the United States. We did not have the CBC prior to the U.S. station in Spokane. We asked for it and we are still asking for it. Heavenly days, half of my riding, geographically speaking, receives no television signal! I asked for service in Vancouver but the CRTC and CBC, working in collusion, concern themselves only with one thing, which is establishing a French language station in Vancouver and to hell with the rest of British Columbia and those people who have no television or radio. They could not care less; they have their blinkers on. The same is true here.

I ask, where are the government's priorities? I have no objection to a French language station in Vancouver. Indeed I would welcome it. Perhaps it would help me learn our second language in Canada. Well, perhaps I should say one of our official languages in Canada. I am sorry I referred to it as a second language because it is not; it is

one of the two official languages, but I am a westerner and I suppose I think as a westerner.

Perhaps I am digressing for a moment, but let me make this point. Does the House not think that the government's priorities are mixed when it wants to spend \$3 million on a television station that the majority of the people of British Columbia do not want, when it wants to force it down their throats, yet the government is not prepared to spend the same amount of money on the provision of radio and television services for the hamlets and small communities of British Columbia that have no signals? These communities are then jumped on because they establish their own pirate stations. What kind of blind thinking is this? This is the reason why the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is in Vancouver with his cabinet today. They are trying to straighten out the way they have alienated western Canada, and the chickens are coming home to roost.

To get back to this bill, what I am trying to point out is that simply because there are U.S. television stations sitting on the border is no reason why the government should suddenly be so concerned about these horrible monsters. Quite frankly, we have been damned glad to have them. Heavenly days, if we had not had them the birth rate in Kootenay West would have multiplied out of hand!

With regard to motion No. 7, the minister said that the Canadian television and radio industry is in a precarious situation in many ways. Once again the minister made a statement with which I heartily concur. But I have only just reviewed one of the reasons why Canadian television and radio is in such a precarious position. It is not that it has not got the dollars; it is the manner in which those dollars are spent. This is what inflames and irritates so many Canadians. Until the government, the CBC and the CRTC get their priorities straightened out, that inflammation will continue. It will be a boil on the side of the federal government that can only be cured by a darned good lancing.

The minister spoke last night about protection. She said that above all there cannot be any possibility for us to protect the income of the many Canadian actors, artists, and artisans involved in the professions related to television and radio. That is precisely what we are trying to do, protect the jobs of people working for a Canadian company in Vancouver. But this bill would deny them the right to work. The government wants to cancel the whole thing out and start all over again with its own grandiose schemes which have never worked. At the moment we have something that works. It is paying good tax dollars to the government and employing Canadians who are happy with their jobs. Yet the government is not satisfied. It wants to remove them and to start all over again with its own ball of wax. We have seen this happen before with the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner), and quite frankly he just messes his nest. I should like to call it six o'clock so that I can continue, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.