

*Broadcasting*

telecommunications and communications across Canada. As I said earlier, at the time the minister introduced Bill C-5, people—as are indeed still found in Quebec—protested against the intervention of the federal government in the provincial area. Furthermore, a written as well as an oral fight was in fact staged on all Quebec radio and television stations and in newspapers charging the federal Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier) with interfering in strictly provincial business. That is not the only area where people in the provincial government oppose and fight the federal government.

● (1610)

Mr. Speaker, those provincial interventions always happen after the federal government decides to take action. That is true not only in this area, but in all areas. The federal government goes ahead with something at a certain moment, and the province says, that belongs to us, not Ottawa. The minister, Mr. L'Allier, says telecommunications and communications in Quebec concern only the province of Québec. Ottawa is somewhat tolerated but that concerns Quebec. We have quite an outfit in Quebec with respect to broadcasting. They are all lost in there not even knowing where they are going. In Ottawa, in both French and English, I think the provinces—Quebec as others—can reach agreement with the federal government to benefit from a single communications policy for all Canada. There is room for that without having storms in teacups.

Mr. Speaker, nothing prevents the province of Quebec from using radio and television stations when it needs to or when other provinces need to. Everyone recognizes that education is a provincial area. I do not think anything in the Broadcasting Act prevents provinces from drawing benefits from it. Then I say Ottawa must respect provincial autonomy but to hear them cry every time Ottawa takes action becomes somewhat irritating. Ottawa is always accused of duplicating expenditures. Mr. Speaker, I have not seen one single area as far as the province of Quebec is concerned, where I live, in which the province did not duplicate what Ottawa decided and did every time, and after that they want to replace that duplication by saying, that belongs to Quebec, not Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, no later than this last weekend people like Mr. Lévesque in Quebec would want to isolate Quebec from the rest of civilization. Every time Mr. Lévesque says: A civilized people, as if Quebec was not civilized. He keeps repeating the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, Ottawa has given an example to all provinces. I regret that Bill C-5 does not provide for agreements between the federal and the provinces in certain areas. However, as a Canadian, I think we should have a broad policy in matters of broadcasting and communications across Canada. For instance, if we have to come to terms with a foreign country, Canada is Canada, it is our country. We hear about noisy brats who say: Well, we will make arrangements independently from Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, these people are causing the Quebec people, the Canadian people and Parliament to lose a lot of precious time.

I suggest again that more could have been achieved with Bill C-5 by expressing the true ideas of Ottawa. If all hell

[Mr. Caouette.]

breaks loose once this bill is adopted, a bill which will give rise to increased expenditures, and if we must later make new distributions and grant increased powers to the provinces, we shall have authorized additional expenses which all may be eventually wasted the day we withdraw from the area of communications to allow its take over by the provinces.

Broadcasting is extremely important from the point of view of education. In my opinion, this new commission, which will carry hardly more authority than the CRTC, will have to act promptly to meet the needs of the Canadian people.

People of my area have been calling for improvements for about fifteen years. The improvements have not yet been achieved. In the Lac-Saint-Jean-Saguenay area, in that of Chibougamau, Rimouski and around, permits were asked to improve the systems, the matter has not been solved, it is under consideration, a small commission was formed and inspectors have been going back and forth three or four times a year and no decisions are reached.

Radio Nord Inc., in my area, is now making an application to expand to serve the southern part of Témiscamingue and old Pontiac. The southern part of Témiscamingue includes the city of Témiscaming, Fabre, Béarn, the area close to the Ontario border to the south. There have been requests for improvements in the area of Matagami, between Senneterre and Chibougamau. The CRTC does not reply or says: We are making a study.

Mr. Speaker, time has come to stop the studies doing something. Improvements have been asked for fifteen years. Radio Nord Inc. is prepared to update its system, perhaps not as much as I would like it to, especially in television and I am wondering whether the commission would have the power to tell the company what to do. I have been asking them for two years to provide CKRN with colour TV cameras, but instead of providing them, maybe they are too poor to do so, the boss of Radio Nord, a millionaire who claims to be a socialist in Montreal, when the time came to renew the equipment, went and bought old black and white cameras from Channel 10 in Montreal. We have them in our studios now in Rouyn, Mr. Speaker. At the same time as licenses are granted, let them think about equipment, let them update it so that we are not 15 or 20 years late. The fault does not lie with the government, it lies with those who have jurisdiction over broadcasting and communication. With respect to asking for improvements for them, I would ask the Commission or the CRTC at the same time to suggest that they improve their equipment and provide people over there with the same kind of services as they provide people throughout the province and the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, those were the few comments I wanted to make about Bill C-5, which will show us to what extent the minister can reach an agreement with Mr. L'Allier from Quebec or with the authorities from the province of Ontario. The problem seems to be purely a matter of parliamentary or political jurisdiction. Let people know where they stand, let Ottawa work to give provinces satisfaction, all right, but a province should by no means be allowed to go its own way, against or beside other provinces, and I think in that case we should tell Mr. L'Allier: Listen, you stick with us and stay where you are.