

## Television

provided for the Churchill constituency they would serve, including the area around Dauphin, around 30,000 households at an annual cost of \$400,000. If these figures are correct it would mean the cost per household would be \$14.28 as against the present cost of \$12.04 for the rest of Canada.

However, I do not think we should become alarmed at that. I make this statement for two reasons. What kind of formula is it that permits the C.B.C. to say that if the costs of service run to more than \$12.04 per household they cannot service that area or they must give some other area consideration? What kind of formula is it that permits the C.B.C. to say to the people of the north, who are not getting television service, that they cannot get it because the costs per household are too high? These people are told they cannot get it, but still they are paying for it. What basis, then, have we for using that formula?

The most recent figures which have been published concerning the average wages received in the various areas of Canada indicate that the towns of The Pas and Flin Flon contain wage earners who have the highest average in the Dominion of Canada. I would assume, therefore, that they are paying the highest taxes. We come back, then, to the formula which shows that the costs of servicing this area are higher than the costs for the rest of Canada and the C.B.C. says, although you do not get it you still have to pay for it.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

## AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Simpson:** Mr. Speaker, when the house rose at six o'clock I was discussing the possible cost of the bringing of television by the C.B.C. into the northern part of Manitoba. In my brief closing remarks I would like to point out to the house, and bring to the attention not only of the members of this house but possibly of the board of broadcast governors, that this possible cost of \$400,000 annually should not be regarded as exorbitant or too costly. I am informed by the C.B.C. that if anyone were to make application to operate a television station in Manitoba with the kinerecordings which would be supplied by the C.B.C. they would recommend that a licence be granted, and that kinerecordings alone would cost the C.B.C. in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 a year. If two operators wanted that service—and we would need more than one station in that

area—the cost would amount to \$300,000; so we must not consider the sum of \$400,000 as being in any way out of the question.

In the brief moments I have left I would like to thank some of the people in northern Manitoba who have been so very kind in giving their time and efforts to assist in bringing this matter to the attention of the C.B.C. I would like to thank Mr. Jim Leggett of Swan River and the various town councils and chambers of commerce; the Flin Flon *Miner* and the Flin Flon *Daily Reminder*; the *Northern Mail of The Pas*; the Swan River *Star and Times*. I would also like to thank radio station CFAR of Flin Flon for keeping the people in that area well informed as to what the situation is in regard to television in the area and the policy of that station. I would also like to say once again that the people of the area are very gratified at the interest presently being shown by private enterprise in applying for stations. But I did mention that it was adding a little confusion, and I think I am right. I would therefore recommend that the C.B.C. decide as quickly as possible if they will pay the annual rental charges of a microwave system. Then the board of broadcast governors should decide which of these applicants has the most satisfactory qualifications to operate stations, and get the job done as quickly as possible.

(Translation):

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, the few remarks I wish to make at this stage, in support of the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Simpson), will be very brief. The resolution reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should give early consideration to the advisability of suggesting the installation of a television service by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the populated areas of the constituency of Churchill.

In his plea in favour of his constituents, the hon. member pointed out the importance of his resolution and the interest which it has for the area he represents. He also expressed the wish of the people of his constituency in regard to a television service, such as the whole people of Canada are entitled to have. He also mentioned that such facilities could serve a population of about 45,000 in his constituency, or approximately 30,000 homes in the area. He also referred to the numerous requests, letters and articles published in local newspapers in favour of such a measure.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a constituency where television facilities are also completely lacking. I am therefore in a position to