

Broadcasting

situation and get away from this idea that if they provided network facilities through Manitoba they would be duplicating the service. I think they would be improving the service greatly, and I think they should be directed to take a look at the situation.

I think the members of the house are well aware of the fact that some time ago, during the hearings on the station at Edmonton in which the C.B.C. received permission to operate a station there, the president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Ouimet, made a public announcement to the effect it was the intention of the corporation to provide sufficient funds in this year's estimates for a kinescope service for The Pas and Flin Flon. Everyone interested in television realizes what a kinescope service is, possibly realizes it better than I do. My understanding is that this is strictly a canned service and that programs which are generally well received in Canada such as sporting events, the news and programs of that nature are not included in this service. I must admit that this type of service is much better than nothing at all, but I have a feeling that if this kinescope service is established it may be many years before another look is taken at these areas.

The frustrating part of the whole thing so far as I am concerned is the fact that during the study of this problem the C.B.C. was dealing with the Manitoba telephone system, the Manitoba government and various other people. The point which seemed to defeat the idea of putting live television into that area was the cost of renting the microwave facilities. The C.B.C. advises me that they do not construct these microwave facilities, but rent them from other carrying agencies in Canada. The cost of renting these services was the difficulty the C.B.C. could not surmount. I might say that I have been told a figure of \$289,000 was the annual rental quoted to the C.B.C. for these facilities. This is a large amount of money, and I realize the C.B.C. would have to take a very serious look at that.

However, since that time various negotiations have been conducted and different types of service have been suggested, services without all the protective features of the service that goes across the main microwave system. Negotiations have reduced the gap to the point where there is only—I realize even this is a large figure—\$100,000 annually separating the cost of providing kinescope and the cost of providing network facilities on the C.B.C. One hundred thousand dollars is a great deal of money. However, if they are going to put this kinescope service into northern Manitoba and are possibly not going to look at the situation again for another seven

or eight years, I believe it will be a shame if this \$100,000 annual charge is going to prevent these people in northern Manitoba from receiving network service for the next eight or ten years.

Those are some of the things that I think the committee should look at very carefully. I think they should look at them because I firmly believe that if they had been looked at and studied carefully by both the B.B.G. and the C.B.C. in the first place a network service would be going into that area at this time.

I also say that, as northern Manitoba is developing rapidly, if we put a kinescope service into Flin Flon and The Pas it will probably be not more than a year or two until the mining areas of Snow Lake and Thompson and Lynn Lake are going to be clamouring—and justifiably so—for the television service of the C.B.C.; and here again we are going to be confronted with the question, is it going to be kinescope or is it going to be live network? If it is going to be live network, then at that time it still has to be put through all the way to Flin Flon and further north. I think the committee should take a firm look at this matter and make a recommendation to both the C.B.C. and the B.B.G. to the effect that when any extension of services is contemplated the proper planning should be done so that duplication will not be necessary in the future. I sincerely hope that I shall have the opportunity of again being a member of the committee.

Before resuming my seat I should like to say that I am still of the opinion that this committee must come up with some recommendations and that it is up to this committee to see that those recommendations are carried out. That procedure, in my opinion, is not political interference. If a recommendation or a directive from a committee is going to be considered political interference, we have two alternatives. We have the alternative of rubber-stamping estimates in the neighbourhood of \$80 million or there is no necessity for the committee to sit in the first place.

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo): Mr. Speaker, I was glad to hear the minister, when he introduced this resolution, say that it had been drawn in wide terms in order to provide a full and complete investigation of all matters respecting broadcasting and telecasting, both public and private. The act under which our system of combined public and private broadcasting was set up defines the functions and powers of the public corporation; but apart from mentioning the development of Canadian talent I could not