

ENGINEERING

The regular report reviewing extensions to coverage, alterations to existing properties and acquisition of technical equipment, was reviewed by the Vice-President, Engineering (Mr. Cahoon). Turning to the status reports on the consolidation projects, the President suggested that the Maison de Radio-Canada Monitoring Committee be asked to give a final report on its stewardship to the March Directors' meeting.

With respect to consolidation of facilities at Vancouver, Mr. Cahoon advised that the preparation of drawings and specifications by the consulting architects were behind schedule. However, in the meantime, steps are being taken to permit the calling of tenders for Managing/Contractors in early March. Management is hopeful that construction will be able to start in late May 1972.

Work is progressing on establishing the needs and possible scope of the Toronto consolidation. The Directors agreed to a Management suggestion that a Users' Committee be established made up of representatives from the English Services Division, Engineering Headquarters and the Planning Department to assess and develop the needs in this area.

Turning to the accelerated CBC coverage project, Mr. Cahoon reported that Engineering Headquarters, in consultation with divisional and regional engineers, had completed an eight-volume master engineering plan for completing CBC television and radio coverage in both English and French languages to communities with populations of 500 or more. These reports will be submitted to the Coverage Work Group for use as a base for establishing project priorities. The President noted that this material would be useful in discussions with the CRTC to illustrate the extent to which work had been accomplished to date.

Mr. Archambault asked if Management would again look into the Quebec City television reception interference problem. He advised that many complaints have been made by viewers in the western section of the city about their inability to receive clear reception from the CBC and the two private television stations. The President asked that this be reviewed by Mr. Cahoon advising Mr. Archambault of the steps that would be taken to correct this situation.

GERALDTON, ONTARIO — LATE NIGHT MOVIES

The President again raised the question of viewer dissatisfaction in the Geraldton area. This rebroadcaster along with five others located at White River, Wawa, Manitowadge, Beardmore and Marathon are fed from the CBLT-TV Toronto station and feel that they are being deprived of the late night Toronto service following the national news because of the French network's need to utilize their microwave circuit to feed its late news (Telejournal) to the Western Provinces. Recalling that this had been raised a few months earlier by Mr. Hinds, the President noted that an estimate of the cost of providing late night service to these rebroadcast areas as well as continuing the French network news feed to the west would be of the order of \$83,000 a year. This is made up of \$27,000 for supplying the nightly program service extension and \$56,000 for the rental of duplicate microwave lines. This latter expense would eventually disappear when the satellite becomes operative in 1973.

Taking all things into account, the President felt that for \$27,000 annually, the Corporation should provide this service despite the possible risk that it might provoke similar demands from other locations. However, he emphasized that it must be made abundantly clear to all who have been pressing for this service that the extension does not guarantee a late night movie every night but will include whatever programming happens to be broadcast on the CBLT Toronto TV station locally, i.e., Viewpoint, Toronto Metro News and Toronto Tonight. The President also hoped that there would not be any difficulty in making short term arrangements for the duplicate microwave rentals to fill the gap between now and when the satellite facility is available to cover the French network news requirement.