

*Radio and Television*

Some hon. members talked yesterday and today about competition and whether they were competitors or partners. I think sometimes it might be rather difficult to persuade the private stations that they were partners entirely in this enterprise, and there is no doubt in the world that they are competitors, and properly so, for the advertising dollar. That may have a good effect on both because they are in competition one with the other in the quality of their programs, and so on, to attract the advertising. In the other field they are associated in an integrated system. As I see it, it is the only system that could possibly work in this vast country.

In this system we have created something unique in the whole world, which we have evolved here, partly private and partly public. It is a compromise which Canada has used so often throughout her history, for example, in the building of railways and in fact in the building of the whole nation. Yesterday the hon. member for Kootenay West rather humorously suggested that perhaps we have followed the C.C.F. in combining private enterprise and public interest. The C.C.F. are following. They have adopted the policy and the pattern which were in effect in Canada long before the C.C.F. was ever heard of. We had that in the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National and now we have it in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. There has been this compromise. Perhaps we are not the most colorful people in the world; perhaps we are not dramatic, but we have built up a pattern which is rather unique in creating this nation stretching across the northern half of the continent, and nowhere is it better exemplified, than in the working out of this partnership.

Perhaps I would be expected to say one word about the matter to which I referred in the house the other day. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has suffered a very severe loss in the resignation of the chairman of the board of governors, Mr. Dunton. He has served the corporation well throughout the years in many ways. The development of this enterprise is a monument and tribute to him which will endure for many years and the country as a whole is indebted to him for what he did during the years in which he was associated with the system.

I do not think there is anything more I need to say at this time, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should say a word about the sub-amendment. Simply expressed, it reads:

This house further regrets that the government has not declared itself in support of the maintenance and expansion of publicly owned facilities in the field of radio and television.

57071-3—144½

That may be technically correct, Mr. Speaker. I was under the distinct impression—and I admit I have not found it—that there is on record in *Hansard* a speech of mine in which I declared myself very forcibly in favour of such a system. I certainly did it by inference the other night, if not explicitly, and I am quite sure there have been statements by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) to the same effect. If they were not made in the house, then they were made on several occasions outside the house, because I have heard them myself. Let there be no doubt about it, this government is in favour of support for and maintenance of the publicly owned facilities in the field of radio and television.

As has been pointed out by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, a Conservative government under R. B. Bennett, later Lord Bennett, laid the foundation of the whole Canadian broadcasting system. That was when the pattern was developed, and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate quite fairly and generously paid tribute to the government of that day for having established the foundation on which the rest has been built.

With every committee of the House of Commons, regardless of the political party, unanimously recommending in favour of maintaining such a system, with three royal commissions recommending the same thing, any political party that would seek to depart from that would certainly not be worthy of the confidence of the people and would not get the confidence of the people and would be politically inept and politically stupid. This government I do not think has shown any of those traits, and I am sure they would not do so in a matter such as this.

As I said, the legislation will come down in the relatively near future. I hope that perhaps the opportunity afforded hon. members to speak yesterday and today will take some of the speeches out of their system and we may possibly have a shorter debate on account of it, although I doubt that very much. I do not think there will be anything in the legislation which has not been envisaged in one way or another in the speeches that have been made. Certainly I cannot go any farther in dealing with that legislation than simply to make the statement I have made, that it will be brought down at the earliest possible moment. I regret the fact that it has not come down earlier. It has certainly been due to no fault of the government in trying to delay it or anything of that kind. There are certain factors in connection with it which have had to be and are being dealt with so that now we are in the position that with the work of the draftsmen nearing