

*Broadcasting*

other hand what I believe to be the true voice of the people. For these reasons, sir, and in a very general way as I have explained today, I support most wholeheartedly this resolution.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words, not in response to the very interesting declaration of political faith we have just heard from the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi, but to talk about another matter which I believe should be considered by the committee when it is convened. I would say to the hon. member who has just spoken—I do not know whether he is a member of this committee—that now that he has avowed what we all knew, that he is a politician, I hope he will grace that committee and give it the benefit of his great experience and his solemn consideration.

The matter I wish to raise, Mr. Speaker, is one which I certainly would raise in the committee if I were a member. However, since I am not, I should like to do so in this way during the discussion of this resolution. On January 3 last we were informed by Mr. C. R. Delafield of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that the international service of the corporation was to be considerably curtailed. Canada's shortwave radio service, of course, has been in existence now for some 16 years with programs beamed to listeners in Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Australasia. I have no quarrel with the decision to extend the international service to Africa, to provide programs in English and in French, as is now being done as a result of the changes announced by Mr. Delafield.

However, I do question the wisdom of the international service being discontinued to some of our north Atlantic treaty partners, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands and Italy. I understand that not only are these programs being eliminated or curtailed, but those to the United Kingdom and France as well are being considerably reduced. I do not know what the government had in mind in connection with this matter, and in this instance I say "the government" advisedly because I believe the decision was made by treasury board. It seems rather unusual that there should have been intervention by treasury board in a matter of this sort, particularly when it involves a service provided by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The explanation may be that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation international service has a budget that is entirely separate from the corporation's domestic budget.

**Mr. Nowlan:** External affairs.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The minister points out that it is external affairs. I thought that was possibly the situation. In any event,

when the minister speaks he will explain the situation in greater detail and justify the decision that has been made on the merits.

Now, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation international service, which was started in wartime, has been a post-war information and publicity arm of the Canadian government for about 16 or 17 years. For many years most of the government's Canadian overseas broadcasts have been to western Europe. In addition to direct broadcasting, Canadians have also recorded special program material here at the request of various European broadcasting bodies for use overseas. In recent years a portion of the transmission schedule has been devoted to propaganda broadcasts to countries behind the iron curtain. I understand that the change that has been made does not include curtailment of what are called propaganda broadcasts to the iron curtain countries. If that is the case, of course, I am in full support of the maintenance of that policy.

However, I question very much whether the saving, which I believe is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of some \$400,000, is warranted when we consider the great disadvantages which I suspect will flow from this curtailment of service. It seems to me that the abandonment of broadcasts to countries like Norway, Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands and Italy, and the cut-back in broadcasting to the United Kingdom and France, comes at a very bad time. This decision has been taken at a time when Canada is seeking to expand its export trade and to maintain existing markets, particularly in the light of the formation of new economic blocs in Europe such as the common market and the European free trade association. It seems to me that if the apprehensions of the Minister of Finance about these blocs are to be taken seriously—and I do not fully agree with the Minister of Finance—the government is placed in an embarrassing position by the decision which has been taken.

It seems to me that these broadcasts, apart from the other advantages that flowed from them, provided an excellent advertising medium that is now being scrapped. This will interfere with the possibility of getting further trade with Europe and maintaining existing trade benefits. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation international service is being forced to terminate a service that has been in existence for over a decade, and completely disrupt its working relationships with various European radio broadcasting organizations. This is being done at a time