

overlooking the strength we automatically have as a nation bordering on the United States? That country has a ratio of about ten to one in population, production, and resources compared to us. Regretfully I would have to say that the ratio would apply as well to public relations, international policies, brotherhood, and loyalty.

What would happen for instance if our neighbour decided without negotiation, forewarning or consideration to legislate its land as out of bounds to Canadians for ownership or publication purposes? How could the Prime Minister and the cabinet explain such retaliation to Canadians that was caused by their policies? As a matter of fact many residents of this country feel more at home across the border than they do here. This is another result of the inconsiderate, biased federal government policies.

Communications between the people of the United States and Canadians are open, friendly, and constant. Communications, whether through television, radio, magazines or people is vital; but communication between the two governments is a basic essential if Canada is to regain the proud image which has been so continuously and vigorously eroded in recent years by those governing this country.

Does the government place pettiness and its persistence to exercise a stubborn, unfriendly attitude above the standing of this country with our strongest neighbour, thus blackening Canada in the eyes of the free world? Mr. Speaker, I hope the government gives credence to what we are saying on this side and recognizes that as the United States grows, so grows Canada. We are both going to grow better and stronger if we grow one in conjunction with the other.

**Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary):** Madam Speaker, I was not going to enter this debate until I heard the hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Douglas) speak earlier about how similar television and broadcasting were in Ontario and British Columbia. I doubt very much if he has travelled beyond the small orbit of his own riding because I do not believe he knows what he is talking about when it comes to television or broadcasting in British Columbia.

**An hon. Member:** Where is that?

**Mr. Whittaker:** Somebody from the party to my left asked where British Columbia is. Well, they used to know because at one time they had a few members from British Columbia but 1974 fixed that up. Now they have only a small contingent and they are not heard from too often.

**An hon. Member:** The Tories didn't do that.

**Mr. Blais:** All you guys are going to run in Oregon next year anyway.

**Mr. Whittaker:** I put the question, what has the elimination of KVOS-TV from Vancouver got to do with the station in my riding as far as television is concerned? There are 250 miles of the Canada-United States border in my riding and those people who live along it will have to rely on American broadcasts if they want to see television. They tell me that they cannot get Canadian television and only know what is going on in the United States.

### *Non-Canadian Publications*

The city of Grand Forks has CBC and CTV but people are also able to get broadcasts of American television from just across the line, a very short distance away. There is a move afoot for cable television in this area. A lot of people are writing to me and asking what is going to happen to the broadcasts from across the border when Canadian cable is installed. They wonder if they will not be able to get it because a lot of them will not be able to get cable. The cable companies just service those who are the easiest and most economical to service, and leave others without. These people have a real concern. For many years the only television they were able to get was from across the border. This is exactly what happened in Midway.

● (1510)

I know the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) to my left will not understand this kind of thing. He comes from a part of the prairies where there is not much concern about TV or radio broadcasts. But what I am raising now is something real; it affects people. I think the hon. member understands people; I don't really know. But this is a real concern to people.

The people in the community of Midway were able to get CBC-TV because they took the initiative and formed a company which bought the necessary machinery and put it on top of the mountain. They were then able to get CBC-TV. Their mainstay has been a broadcasting station just across the border, not too far distant. That has been their main broadcasting station and they have had to get by with it over the years, when they were not able to get television. Then a forest fire burned their equipment, and once again they had to rely on television broadcasts from across the line in the United States.

They tried to interest the CRTC in building a broadcasting station under the accelerated program about which the hon. member for Bruce-Grey was talking. At any rate, they wanted the CRTC to do something under the accelerated program so that they could have TV broadcasts in the area. They were not very successful. Let me read what the Secretary of State's department had to say. An official wrote:

The situation in which the people of Midway find themselves is indeed a difficult one. Officials of the CBC inform me that the corporation can offer no financial assistance in the rebuilding of the installation in Midway, but that they would be pleased to help by giving engineering assistance and advice to the TV committee in the restoration of its installation.

Plans to install a CBC-TV transmitter in the general area are part of the CBC's accelerated coverage plan, but this, of course, offers no immediate solution to the problem of television coverage for Midway residents. This could be done through the CBC's Vancouver regional headquarters.

That letter was written on October 3, 1973. Since then the government has tried to do a lot of things in Vancouver with TV but it is not doing anything constructive in communities like Midway along the border which need help, have not got access to Canadian broadcasts, and rely heavily on television and radio broadcasts from the United States. They say to me, "We don't know what is going on in Canada."

Part of a letter sent by one of the people in Midway reads: