

periods when the House is not sitting. This means full weekend service, prime time programming on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and some programming on other weekday evenings. I am optimistic that with the co-operation of all parties, and with CRTC approval, this arrangement can be implemented this fall. This action follows a recommendation of the Therrien Committee calling for the government to arrange, on an interim basis, for one or more TV channels to be delivered *via* satellite to remote areas. I am well aware that this alone will not resolve the total problem. However, as a temporary measure, it provides a clear indication to remote and rural Canadians that the federal government and the CRTC are serious about meeting their broadcasting needs.

Pay-TV

Third, the CRTC has endorsed the Therrien recommendation which calls for the introduction of pay-television in Canada.

In my view, the prerequisites for Canadian pay-TV are as follows: Canadian pay-TV must contribute positively and significantly to broadcasting in Canada. Canadian pay-TV must include the use of Canadian resources. Canadian pay-TV must stimulate the Canadian program production industry....

Pay-TV, properly introduced in this country, will contribute significantly to meeting the programming and content challenges which we face. A properly designed pay-TV system will provide a new and financially rewarding outlet for Canadian production. It will provide a direct injection of program funding from Canadian consumers to supplement conventional investment from advertising revenues and government in this area.

The CRTC has indicated in its announcement that it is aware of the urgency of dealing with the issues related to pay-TV.

Unauthorized earth stations

Fourth, I wish to announce that the government is taking appropriate action to halt the spread of unauthorized earth stations which threaten the integrity of the Canadian broadcasting system. My concern is specifically with the unrestricted interception of U.S. satellite television signals by Canadian ground station operators and the distribution of this programming to the public. As Minister of Communications, I am responsible for administration of the Radio Act, under which

satellite earth stations are licensed. My approach will be to continue to be as reasonable and flexible as possible while protecting the public interest. As I have said before, I am less concerned about individuals who are receiving satellite TV signals for private consumption, with no further distribution to the public. Nor is my immediate concern with isolated communities which lack basic TV service, and where no harm is being caused by unauthorized reception and distribution to the public.

But the most pressing concern, and the greatest threat to the broadcasting system lies with the reception and redistribution of foreign satellite TV programming in the urban south.

Some critics have voiced the view that the refusal of the federal government to license direct reception of U.S. satellite TV channels constitutes censorship or interference in freedom of viewing choice. In talking about freedom of choice it should be noted that most Canadians in urban areas already enjoy access to more U.S. programming than many Americans, because they can receive the U.S. networks and see U.S. programs on Canadian television stations. In considering the free flow of information across national boundaries it is essential to take into account the need for balance as well. Allowing the unlimited importation of the 25 or more channels of U.S. satellite television into major Canadian markets would seriously undermine the financial foundation of the Canadian broadcasting system, lead to the bankruptcy of Canadian television stations and networks, and destroy the Canadian broadcasting system.

This activity will not be tolerated. I am initiating enforcement action to shut down those urban earth station operators who have recently begun distributing U.S. satellite television in apartment complexes and hotels. Enforcement measures will include the seizing of unlicensed equipment and the laying of charges by the Department of Justice.

I believe that when most Canadians turn on their TV sets they want to be able to choose from a reasonable quantity and quality of Canadian channels which reflect the values and traditions of this country, in addition to a good selection of the best in foreign programming which Canadians will continue to enjoy. A satisfactory accommodation between satellite technology and the broadcasting system in Canada will have to ensure a

healthy environment for our domestic industry so that more and better Canadian programming is available in future.

Fifth, I am currently reviewing measures for changes to the earth station licensing process aimed at making TV-receive satellite earth station licensing simpler and available to a wider number of users.

These measures would, I hope, considerably simplify and speed up the licensing of such earth stations. I will be in a position to announce details of this in the near future.

Sixth, I will be calling for public participation in a review of earth station licensing policy. The review will examine the possibility of doing away with licensing requirements for certain types of TV-receive earth stations aimed at Canadian satellites. It will also consider the extension of licensing privileges to further categories of applicants. I will be announcing details of this review in a few days.

As you know, the Therrien Report recommended that the government should find ways to simplify licensing and regulatory procedures. These initiatives which I am taking should lead to greater use of satellite facilities in Canada in anticipation of the substantial additional capacity which will become available with the new *Anik-C* and *Anik-D* satellite systems.

Telecommunications legislation

Finally, I shall, as quickly as the Parliamentary schedule permits, introduce telecommunications legislation which will set broad objectives for our telecommunications system and define more precisely the relationships among its various parts. The legislation will provide the framework to permit the orderly development of our entire telecommunications system, in response to the new technologies. It will also take into account the new issues raised by the revolution in communications technology. In this way, I believe we shall be able to give a new coherence and direction to communications and cultural policy in Canada, as well as respond speedily to new developments as they occur. Indeed, I regard this telecommunications legislation as the foundation for all our efforts to use the new technologies in a way which serves Canadian needs and helps our broadcasters and program producers to meet the 1980s with confidence....