

The very recommendation Senator Desrousseau says he wishes we had made is, in fact, contained in the report.

Senator Desrousseau also made the point that he did not like the idea of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters finding it necessary to correct the facts and figures in the documentation on profitability contained in our report. The senator had received a release from the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, and he was appalled to think that the CAB had to correct the facts and figures contained in our report. Indeed, I had the same report that was put out by the CAB that Senator Desrousseau had. Of course, the answer is very simple. We were talking about two different years. This CAB document, in fact does not in any sense indicate it quarrels with the facts and figures contained in our report, but the document which Senator Desrousseau referred to in this chamber, was for 1969. The base year in this particular report, analyzing the media industry, is 1968. So of course we are talking about two different years. There is no conflict at all: there is a simple misunderstanding. I think Senator Desrousseau felt he had a point, maybe a debating point, maybe more than a debating point. In the chamber on that day, and again on a subsequent day, he promised to supply me with information which would demonstrate that our figures on profitability are incorrect. It should be a matter of record that I received no such documentation from the honourable senator. I do not quarrel with that. I think there was a simple misunderstanding.

Senator Desrousseau does not like the CBC. For that matter, as is well known, neither does my friend Senator Beaubien. I would digress momentarily to say that no committee chairman has ever had a more co-operative deputy chairman than I had in Senator Beaubien. Our association was close, far closer of course than had been possible prior to the committee's formation. In that friendship both Senator Beaubien and I agreed on almost everything, but not quite. One of the happy by-products of the committee has been my closer association with him.

Honourable senators, Senator Beaubien, like Senator Desrousseau, does not like the CBC. For that matter, neither does my seat mate, Senator Sparrow. Neither do a lot of other senators, judging by the debates we have listened to in this place.

Of course, the corporation has always been fair game for members of this chamber. Senator Sparrow even suggested that members of Parliament—members of the other place and members of the Senate—should sit in judgment as members of the CBC board. That one was too much even for the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. They did not even include it in their February 17 multi-thousand word précis of this debate. It was really, more accurately, a précis of the remarks made in this chamber by Senate Desrousseau.

This document, which is an absolutely typical Canadian Association of Broadcasters' release, is sub-headed: "Broadcasters have a number of friends in the Senate."

In rejecting Senator Sparrow's idea—that is, having members of Parliament sit on the CBC board—these

[Hon. Mr. Davey.]

private broadcasters realize, as do each one of you, and as I am sure Senator Sparrow does, that television and radio are already terribly vulnerable to government pressure. This of course is no less true for public broadcasting. So editorial freedom must be preserved at all costs. But let us not in this chamber or elsewhere have a grade-school debate about which is better, private broadcasting or public broadcasting. The fact is simple: in Canada we need both dimensions. In the private sector we need a far more enlightened and a far less profit-oriented approach to broadcasting. Senator Forsey spelled that out in his speech—none of which, sad to say, qualified for inclusion in the CAB bulletin.

Perhaps I could quote Senator Forsey, as reported at page 440 of Senate *Hansard*, speaking of his years as a member of the Board of Broadcast Governors:

... the impression left on me was that the theme song of private broadcasters could very well have been taken from that Gilbert and Sullivan opera, "The Pirates of Penzance".

Oh! I am a pirate king.

Yes, I am a pirate king;

And it is, it is a glorious thing  
to be a pirate king.

You will remember Senator Forsey breaking into full song—a delightful example of Canadian talent. He was able to do it, but I will not attempt it.

Honourable senators, this has been a useful debate, but it has not been without its share of nonsense, much of it relating to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Our report makes it clear that the CBC is not a perfect institution. Far from it. So we made a number of hard-nosed recommendations. But fair is fair. For heaven's sake, let us retain our perspective. For that reason, for the purpose of underlining, I would like to quote two comments from Senator Forsey's excellent presentation. First of all, he said:

I cannot share the views of Senator Desrousseau about the deficit of the CBC. I do not think there is a deficit. There is a grant made out of public funds. To my mind the grant should be placed on the basis the report suggests. Indeed, the suggestion is, as the report recognizes, by no means a new one. There are grants to the CBC as a public service. It was never set up to be a paying commercial proposition; that was not the intention at all, and I challenge anybody to produce any evidence that it was. Just as you do not expect the National Gallery of Canada to show a commercial profit, so it seems to me you cannot expect the CBC to show a commercial profit.

The second point which Senator Forsey made about the corporation, the one I wanted to stress, is one which I do not have at hand. I would urge honourable senators to re-read Senator Forsey's speech, which was an excellent documentation of the need for, and the virtues of, public broadcasting in this country.

Perhaps I could complete my remarks on the CBC very briefly. The CBC is the national communications medium