

*Government Orders*

guarantee for aboriginal people to receive service in representative native languages. I would have liked that to have occurred.

Foreign networks, I believe, should be licensed. There is no provision, to my knowledge, for this to happen, for them to have to obtain a licence.

I want to ensure that people understand the following point. While I am wholly supportive of cable operators I think that they should be encouraged, and I say this in a very positive way, to offer programming that is different and complementary to that which exists.

The cabinet power with respect to direction and review is one that I think we need to be sensitive to. It will be recalled that cabinet can review CRTC decisions and provide policy direction to the CRTC. Of course the question that comes to mind is: "Is there some potential for abuse? Is there some potential for political interference?" I believe that it might be possible—in fact desirable—for cabinet to review CRTC decisions when they go contrary to cabinet directions, or when that decision has national policy implications.

There is no provision for non-simultaneous substitution. When Canadians buy a foreign service it seems to me that that service should not be shown to Canadians at a different time by that foreign power, if you wish, that is the one that sold us the service. There again there is potential for abuse.

The status is unclear for MATV systems. Condominium and apartment dwellers need to know where they stand with respect to this issue.

The final point that I want to raise before I talk about the educational role is the seven-year versus a five-year term of office for the chairman of the CBC. It may reduce the ability to operate at arm's length from government. I have reviewed some of the positives, and perhaps some of the negatives, and some of the issues that I think we need to be sensitive to.

[*Translation*]

At this point, I would like to discuss one role I believe is very important, and I am referring to the educational role, in the broadest sense of the word. Earlier, it was said, and I have noticed this many times, that our young people spend more time watching television than they do in the classroom. I do not recall exactly how many hours

adults spend watching television, but I know it is quite a lot. We tend to point to young people and children as the culprits, not adults. Not so. The vast majority of Canadian men and women spend a lot of time watching television.

It was also said that the majority of our programs come from other countries. Now this raises two very important questions. If we spend as much time watching television as people say, and I think we do, this is a golden opportunity to learn more about what is going on in our society, to be informed, to be aware and to increase our knowledge.

• (1350)

Furthermore, if most of our programs come from outside Canada, the question arises: What are we learning? Is it really what we need to develop our abilities and gain a better understanding of what we are, what our country is all about and its place in the world?

Personally, and a number of colleagues have said this as well, I think one of the most important roles of television, radio and the media generally is to educate, to share information honestly and accurately. I think this educational role could build Canadian unity, something we already have but which, we must admit, is gradually deteriorating.

I wish we would consider the possibility of increasing the role and impact of radio, television and other media with respect to our primary objective in this House which, I think all members will agree, is to present national unity.

[*English*]

Quite apart from making a major contribution to national unity broadcasting can foster racial, religious and linguistic tolerance. To me that is part of the package of national unity. What better medium is there to sensitize us to those differences, to bring out the similarities and yet at the same time permit us to grow in tolerance, understanding and sensitivity?

I think as well that there might be a prime role for language education for our official languages of course, but also for the languages of our own aboriginal peoples, languages which are disappearing. And of course a number of languages spoken by new Canadians.