

Senator Prowse: Do you mind giving a quick rundown? I know you have it here. How many areas do you cover at the present time?

Mr. Ted Jarman: Our group of companies serves 9 Ontario communities, that involves five separate cable systems. The principle communities are London, Brantford, Newmarket, Oshawa and Chatham.

Senator Prowse: And what is it, about 39,000 households that you have?

Mr. Ted Jarman: That would be the number of households in London. The total number of households in the entire group of systems would be 66 to 67,000.

Senator Prowse: What percentage of the TV sets, the TV receiving sets in your general area are now covered by cable?

Mr. Ted Jarman: Overall average for all of the system?

Senator Prowse: Overall is good enough. If you want to give specific figures that might be better.

Mr. Ted Jarman: It varies widely, of course, depending on the market, the age of the system, and so on. The average for the entire group of systems at November 30th, 1969 was 62 per cent. That ranged at that date from a high in London of over 80 per cent to a low in Chatham of 35 per cent.

Senator Prowse: Do you see the situation developing where all of the TV will be carried by cable rather than by antenna?

Mr. Ted Jarman: No. I think that some people tend to become confused here. A broadcasting station is much more than a transmitter. I suppose in the early days of broadcasting a transmitter was it but of all the things that go to making up a television station today a transmitter is obviously only a small part of it.

I think transmitters are and will for the foreseeable future continue to be an efficient way of distributing signals to outlying areas. Already in urban centres, such as London, we find as a practical matter most of the broadcasting is being received over cable but I don't see why we need to get hung up on the technical means of distribution here.

I think we said in our brief that in our opinion the important function that the

broadcaster fulfills is providing programming. That need certainly is not going to go away.

Senator Prowse: He provides the programming and really what you provide is the specialized distribution system for the programming.

Mr. Ted Jarman: That is right.

Senator Everett: Does that make you then just a common carrier in your concepts?

Mr. Ted Jarman: The words "common carrier" are somewhat loaded. We are a distributor. Traditionally cable systems have been distributors whereas TV stations have been the producers.

Senator Everett: I notice in your verbal evidence you seem terribly concerned with accommodating the broadcasters whom you characterize as programmers and so concerned, I get the impression, that you are interested more in distributing what they program than you are in taking a position yourself, although in your written brief you talk about the position you are taking in programming.

Mr. Ted Jarman: I think it is important to distinguish between a cable system and a cable company. A cable system is a communications network that has absolutely no programming ability whatsoever. It is a network of wires that takes signals from a single location out to many locations and cable systems are today, and as far as I am concerned will indefinitely continue to be, distribution facilities.

Now cable companies, on the other hand, are organizations with people and so on, financial resources, and are capable of creating programming to feed into the distribution system. The cable system proper is and always will be a distribution system, a communication system.

Originally it was established as a community antenna, hence the words "community antenna television" and that is still by far its most important function, providing people with a way, a better way of receiving a variety of signals that are coming through the air.

I think we made it clear in the brief we view cablecasting as an important developing role for cable companies. We in no way see that displacing the distributors' function that is performed by the network.