

*Canadian Policy on Broadcasting*

say that the name "Canadian radio commission" seems to have aroused considerable comment. In the view of the government a new name for the regulatory authority is desirable to underline what we believe is an important change in climate and accent. Having decided that, Mr. Speaker, we searched for a name which would best represent the actual functions of this agency and which would be the same, at least so far as its initials are concerned, in both our official languages. I know that some people consider the word "radio" somewhat archaic in terms of today's broadcasting system, even though it can be defined in dictionary terms to embrace both radio and television. It may be that there is a more modern name which will meet our requirements, such as the proposed Canadian radio-television commission that has been suggested to me, or the Canadian communications commission. Suffice it to say, Mr. Speaker, that no one is wedded to the name "Canadian radio commission" and I would be interested to hear any suggestions from the committee with respect to the name. At the same time members of the standing committee or later members in committee of the whole might wish to consider whether it is time to find a new and perhaps more streamlined name for the C.B.C., taking into account the same considerations I have mentioned in this respect.

Whatever the name, Mr. Speaker, the proposed commission will have wider powers than the current B.B.G. and it will be backed up with significant means of enforcement. These powers will be exercised for the sole purpose of implementing the broadcasting policy to be established by parliament in this bill. Obviously the C.R.C. will need a little larger staff than the B.B.G. has, and this is one of the reasons for increasing the number of full time members from three to five.

There will also be a large increase in the number of matters which can be decided only after a public hearing. It is therefore proposed that hearings may be undertaken by small groups of members; it does not necessarily have to be the whole commission. However, no decisions are taken at hearings. They are to provide only the means for public discussion of licensing and other problems in different parts of the country and they would have to be reported back for decision.

Although the white paper proposed that there should be seven part time members and the standing committee recommended six, we have now on more mature consideration come to the conclusion that so small a num-

ber of part time members would not be sufficient to provide proper representation of public interests. It is therefore proposed in this bill that there should be ten part time members of the commission but that a quorum has to include at least three of the five full time members.

The government has been giving much consideration to the distribution of powers between the full time and the part time members, ranging from having no part time members to having part time members with the same powers as full time members. It will be recalled that the white paper proposed that the powers of the commission should be exercised by the full time members alone but after consultation with the part time members. The standing committee did not agree with this proposal and recommended that the part time members should have the right to vote. It was never the intention of the government that the part time members should be treated as no more than an advisory committee. After all, their purpose is to represent the public in various regions and walks of life. Having now had regard to the opinion of the standing committee, this bill provides a division of the powers between the full commission and the full time members, and I believe that this will give a balance of authority which will best fulfil the public interest.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, the right to make regulations lies with the whole commission. That should not be underestimated as to importance, for the part time members will be sharing in the responsibility for establishing standards of programs, for regulating scheduling policy for classes or categories of programs, for controlling the nature and quantity of advertising, for prescribing the conditions for operating networks, and other important matters including the revocation of a broadcaster's licence.

However, Mr. Speaker, since in making appointments it is necessary to exclude from part time membership those who have a pecuniary interest in broadcasting, the full time members will represent the principal body of expert knowledge on the commission. It is therefore proposed that the regulatory power of the full commission can be exercised only on the recommendation of the full time members. This very practical requirement is designed to ensure that the full time members will never be placed in the position of having to administer a regulation carried

[Miss LaMarsh.]