

The Budget—Mr. Nesbitt

the Americans were doing. All of us know that wars are pretty tough things, and some of us have served in wartime. We know that if people want to take pictures of bad things they can take plenty of them. This show had a particularly atrocious picture of a small child, burned black, on the steps of a public building. However, Mr. Speaker, I have a pretty good memory. That picture was on the cover of *Life* magazine in 1940, showing the bombing of Chunking.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: Does that justify the war?

Mr. Nesbitt: There is that junior Pollyanna from the west back there again. The only possible conclusion that any reasonable person could draw from the activities of the CBC is that those in charge of public affairs broadcasts in the CBC are, to say the least, sympathetic to the policies of the Soviet Union and China. This was virtually admitted by the president of the CBC when not long ago Mr. Michael McClear was in North Viet Nam for an exclusive assignment there, the first person from the western side allowed into North Viet Nam to do such a show, and Mr. Davidson said he was sent there because he had friends and associates in the North Vietnamese government. No one objects to communist propaganda on the CBC or anywhere else provided that occasionally there is some other kind of propaganda presented, but when you get only one side of the picture day in and day out it becomes too much.

I do not see why a handful of dedicated propagandists in the CBC should be permitted to use public facilities to promote their economic, social and political policies to the exclusion of all other policies. That is all that goes on, and we are paying for it. Not long ago the president of the CBC at a policy conference at Niagara Falls, where the presidents of the various media were invited to speak, was asked about the presentation of these views. I was surprised that the president of the CBC, for whom ordinarily I have a great regard, replied with the fatuous remark, "We don't look into the background of people we hire to do our public affairs broadcasts." Nobody expects that he should, but when he finds only one side of a controversy being presented day in and day out, we expect him to check into it and say that the public want to hear more than one side of the controversy.

Many people employed in the CBC are rather distinctive in their social attitudes and

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

the like. That is their business. It concerns nobody else and they are entitled to their private views, but when they bring these to work with them and try to mould everybody in Canada to the same image, that is a different kettle of fish. This attitude of the president of the CBC becomes somewhat alarming because of recent trends in the CBC. I have mentioned the question of the recent provincial elections. It was brought to my attention that one of the directors of the public affairs programs has a pretty close association with the government party. He arrived in the CBC not too long ago. He had been president of the Young Liberals at university. He ran the election campaign for one of the Liberal candidates in 1965. I am informed he was at Liberal headquarters for some time afterwards. Suddenly he becomes public affairs director of the CBC. I do not propose dealing with names—that is not fair—but if anybody would like to know the name privately afterwards, I would be glad to tell him.

This fits in with all the things I mentioned earlier, with this attempt at thought control. My time is running short, Mr. Speaker, so I have to curtail my remarks, but I say that the government's theory of communication is another disturbing thing. As applied to the Post Office, the government holds that it must pay its own way and never mind service to the public. That is one form of communication. But what is sauce for the goose, the Post Office, is not necessarily sauce for the gander, the CBC. This is because you cannot do much propaganda via the Post Office, or promote thought control, but you sure as heck can through the CBC. So the taxpayers have to put up \$165 million a year to pay for that.

It was brought out, only today, by the president of the CTV that CBC advertising rates are so low that private broadcasters cannot compete with them. So, we are now using taxpayers' money to put private organizations out of business, and there is to be only one method of public information, or thought control, left in the country. All this makes a person pretty worried about the CBC, and there is certainly no question of the government attempting to save money on the CBC. We are told that everybody has to cut down and pare away expenses, and that every department has to lay off civil servants, and the like. But there is no thought of cutting down the expenses of the Prime Minister's office. Obviously most of the people there are taken on for public relations purposes. Nor is there any thought of cutting down CBC