

*Broadcasting*

I realize the difficulties. They are small communities and you cannot expect the public authority to maintain a staff in a small area. I suggest that these co-operative community owned stations are a good solution of the problem but in order that these smaller groups who are doing something for themselves will not waste their limited funds and will take the right course of action I suggest that the Department of Transport, the other departments concerned and the board of broadcast governors should extend further co-operation by providing technical advice through sending engineers there to advise these people as to how they can proceed. I hope that this matter will be given consideration so that the co-operative groups who are operating these satellite television stations may be advised as to how they can now proceed to improve or extend their equipment in order to receive C.B.C. programs.

What I have in mind is this. There is a station now on Saddle mountain which picks up Spokane on one or two channels. Kelowna some 60 miles to the west has C.B.C. programs and I understand from the engineers that by installing another satellite station on a mountain of the range in between it would be possible for the C.B.C. programs from Kelowna to be received and rebroadcast in the Arrow lakes area. I use that as an illustration. Such a project requires technical advice and some investigation, and I urge that the C.B.C. give consideration to assisting these community groups to help themselves to receive the programs of the C.B.C.

There is one other question of local importance. Over the years I have been urging the need for low power relay transmitters and according to the announcement of the minister I understand that authority was granted the C.B.C. and funds were made available for the establishment of several of these low power relay transmitters in British Columbia. Three of these were to be established in Kootenay West no doubt because the need was the greatest there, one at Nakusp, one in the Balfour-Procter area and one in the Salmo area. Because these people are denied the opportunity to listen to Canadian programs there is growing impatience over the delay that has gone on for years.

I have made some inquiries of the C.B.C. engineers in Vancouver and of Captain Briggs, the vice chairman of the C.B.C. in Ottawa. I am informed that the delay has been occasioned by reason of negotiations between the C.B.C. and the C.P.R. as to the line service to be provided and so on. I have discussed this matter with local officials of the C.P.R. and I am informed that the C.P.R. is the prime contractor in the provision

[Mr. Herridge.]

of line service for the C.B.C. in Canada, that even the C.N.R. has to subcontract from the C.P.R., and that this is the cause of the delay in our district.

For instance, the C.P.R. provides line service for a low power relay transmitter at a place called Slocan on Slocan lake. That line service is provided over their lines from Nelson to Slocan lake. The line service from Slocan lake or Slocan city as we used to call it—it is not a city now—to New Denver is sublet to the B.C. Telephone Company. Then the line service to serve Nakusp will be provided by the C.P.R. Because it is an old telegraph line requiring parallel copper wires, I understand, and a lot of renewals as far as poles are concerned, there has been some hesitation on the part of the C.P.R. to do this. This means that not only does the C.P.R. deny us our steamer service and our passenger service but they are actually denying the opportunity to thousands of people to listen to the C.B.C. over low power relay transmitters.

I have had a lot of letters about this matter, Mr. Speaker, and a good many of them from Conservatives who are, I might say, very disturbed about the government's actions in other directions, but I shall not go into that this afternoon. I urge the minister to bring this matter to the attention of the C.B.C. and see if something cannot be done to speed up the provision of Canadian low power relay transmitters to serve these small communities which even to this day are denied the opportunity to listen to Canadian radio in spite of the fact that we have had radio service in Canada for many years now.

The final matter I wish to bring to the attention of the minister has to do with a private station. We have a private radio station at Trail and one at Nelson and on the whole these stations are performing a good community service. A few years ago I used to receive a lot of criticisms but I find that the criticisms are becoming less from year to year. They are performing a good community service, and in that regard I think our system is excellent with its combination of publicly and privately owned stations, the one type serving the nation on networks and the other serving local communities. I believe a local station can provide the local colour and interest that it is not possible to provide from a central point in Ottawa. However, I do have a complaint to make with respect to station CKLN in Nelson.

Let me explain that the *Nelson News* and CKLN, the radio station in Nelson, are both owned by the News Publishing Company. The *Nelson News* is an advocate of free