

Interim Supply

board of broadcast governors, is questioning Mr. Karsin who appeared for the interlake people. He is referring to a contour map of the Department of Transport where the original B contour of CBWT cuts across north of Teulon over, roughly, to lake Francis. The exchange reads as follows:

Mr. Pearson: And the B contour will now pass somewhere up south of Oak Island Marsh and across Lundar and Mill End and Camp Morton—they would all be within the B contour? Would this not give beyond that some better signal than is presently received?

Mr. Karsin: Maybe a bit better, but not good enough for us.

Mr. Pearson: I appreciate your position, Mr. Karsin, that you feel if this application is granted, as requested, the interlake will forever remain a hinterland without television?

Mr. Karsin: Yes. You can tell by the channel 7 map—

Incidentally, channel 7 is a private station. When it was established in Winnipeg the people in the interlake area thought they would get a television service. But the station built its antennae south of Winnipeg and reception did not extend to the northern part of the interlake area. Mr. Karsin's answer continued:

—we have a map there from CJAY and the fringe just goes north of Teulon and it does come in at times—it depends on atmospheric conditions. It does come in; sometimes it is good and at other times it is not, so this at Starbuck on channel 6 with 100,000 watts would be about the same—we would get reception just some of the time.

As I have said, the fear was expressed that adoption of this proposal would leave the area without television service for a long time to come. There are a couple of questions and answers toward the conclusion of the hearing to which I would like to refer. This is the part I want to quote. Dr. Stewart is now putting questions to an official of the C.B.C.:

Dr. Stewart: I am not sure if I missed this point, but supposing you were wrong and Mr. Karsin is even underestimating the deficiencies in this interlake area—supposing you make your move and it is still obviously quite inadequate service in the significant part of the interlake area, is it technically possible on a VHF band to correct this?

Mr. Fraser: You are thinking of a satellite?

Dr. Stewart: Yes.

Mr. Fraser: It would be technically possible, but I think this would be a matter of economics. Here again, depending on the number of population to be served—the population in that area is quite scattered—they are quite small communities—and a satellite normally doesn't cover a large geographical area. That would be a matter that would have to be figured out.

Dr. Stewart: I thought Mr. Karsin left the impression that if this didn't work, then the interlake area was lost for all time, in so far as service. Technically this is not so?

Mr. Fraser: Technically this is not true.

That is right. Technically, it is not true. At the same time the people of the interlake area fear that if the present set-up will not provide improved service they will be there for a long time without any service whatsoever.

An hon. Member: Carried.

Mr. Stefanson: No, it is not carried yet. I want to point out that station CBWT in Winnipeg went on the air in 1954. From 1954 to 1958 it was on channel 4. In 1958 it switched to channel 3 and the service became worse. It has been on channel 3 ever since. Next month, I presume, it will be changing to channel 6 and it has been indicated to me that as a result of this change the people in the area will have to buy new antennae at an expenditure to them of between \$40 and \$50 each. It seems to me there has been poor planning on the part of the C.B.C., otherwise they would not have had to switch the station twice.

Mr. Orlikow: Why are they not enjoying private t.v.?

Mr. Stefanson: Private television does not provide coverage for the northern part of the area. The C.B.C. is serving only the more populated area; it is not providing service for the other areas at all. I now ask this question: When can people living in the following areas expect to get television service: Norway House, Grand Rapids, Dauphin River, Matheson Island? I would remind the committee that Norway House has a population of more than 2,000 people.

In closing I would recommend that the officials of the C.B.C. announce the precise date on which the changeover will take place. They should do this as quickly as possible and, in addition, inform the people concerned what antenna changes are required. If the changeover is to take place next month, or a little later, this is the time when the corporation should be announcing the date so that the viewers concerned can prepare themselves and go ahead with the alterations in their antennae which are needed. In the hearing they tried to say no changes would be required, but this has been proven false before and all the people in this area are of the opinion that they will require new antennae.