

Television Transmission Facilities

have priority over an area with 15,000 to 20,000 people simply by virtue of the fact that the cost per capita to bring in television service is lower.

It is not entirely a question of money even if we do embark upon this undertaking over the next year or two. Technical difficulties have to be overcome. Apparently procurement is one serious problem. Even if at this session of parliament we do, and I hope we will provide the money required by the C.B.C. to undertake this coverage in its entirety, this does not mean that this operation will be completed within a year or two. It also does not mean that people in the far-flung areas are going to be provided with television even if we do spend up to \$30 million.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that what is required at this moment is a determination on the part of the C.B.C., perhaps with the authority of the government, to undertake some research. Technical developments are taking place at a rapid rate, yet not rapidly enough to provide television service across Canada. It seems to me that at a time when it is possible to send satellites into space which can relay television from Europe to Canada, and knowing that satellites can be kept stationary in the sky, it should also be possible to orbit a space satellite which could be suspended in space over the central part of Canada to provide C.B.C. coverage to all parts of the country, into the mountainous valleys of British Columbia and even to the north pole. If we can send satellites into space to reflect television from Europe or from any other part of the world, then it is not an insurmountable undertaking to reflect television broadcasts in Canada. This would not be nearly so costly as providing a microwave system, land lines and so on to give television coverage across the nation.

I believe we have been moving too slowly. We have been thinking in terms of microwave systems alone. It may be there would be some serious objection from microwave companies who are already in the business of providing services from central telecasting areas right across the nation. Perhaps they would find themselves with a great deal of unusable equipment, but such are the circumstances of modern technology. I believe we should investigate the situation and provide the sum of money required for immediate and serious research into this matter in order that we may provide television throughout the entire nation.

Mr. Knowles: Six thirty.

[Mr. Byrne.]

Mr. Byrne: In the meantime we should not stall any projects now being carried on to provide television coverage to smaller communities. I do not wish to talk out this measure, Mr. Speaker, so that is all I have to say at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure): Mr. Speaker, first I wish to—

[English]

Mr. Knowles: Six thirty.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. The time allotted to private members' hour is one hour and that time has not yet expired.

[Translation]

Mr. Béchard: Mr. Speaker, first I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Cadieu) for having introduced such a motion to give citizens in distant parts of the country who do not have television the advantages of this most important means of communication.

This motion reflects not only the wish of the hon. member and his fellow citizens in northwest Saskatchewan and others, but also that of several other hon. members and their constituents.

• (6:30 p.m.)

The hon. member sitting beside the hon. member for Meadow Lake would also have many things to say on this subject because, like myself, he comes from the Gaspé peninsula. The hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Keays) could put on the order paper a motion written in exactly the same terms, except for the name of the place, since a large part of Gaspé riding is virtually deprived of television services.

A moment ago, the hon. member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) mentioned—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Order. As it is now six thirty, it is my duty to leave the chair pursuant to an order passed by the house this afternoon.

Accordingly, the house will adjourn until eight o'clock tonight.

Mr. Knowles: Fine.

Mr. Graftey: Have a good lunch.

[English]

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 8 p.m.