

*Canadian Broadcasting Policy*

of the board and as senior officers in the corporation—

**The Chairman:** Order. I must advise the hon. member that the time allotted to him has expired. Does the committee give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Mongrain:** No.

**The Chairman:** I hear an objection.

**Mr. Prittie:** Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the hon. member was not allowed to continue because I would have liked to hear the remainder of his remarks.

The occasional reader of *Hansard* interested in broadcasting matters may wonder why at this particular point we are dealing with a resolution. We have been promised a new radio act and we do not have it, but the puzzled reader must realize that under our procedures resolutions precede bills and, as the previous speaker mentioned, we are dealing here in generalities and not until the resolution stage is completed will we have the bill and see the new legislation in which we are all very interested.

As the minister pointed out, perhaps few subjects in Canada have been as widely investigated as broadcasting. To name the most recent investigations, we had the committee of Mr. Robert Fowler, the government's white paper and the rather lengthy hearings of the committee on broadcasting. As a member of that committee and as a member of the steering committee which helped draft the report to the house I am of course very interested in seeing the new legislation and seeing how close it comes to the committee's recommendations. I should say that within the committee there was a large degree of unanimity among the members of all parties on the form of legislation which we should have. For example, I can agree with much of what the previous speaker, the hon. member for Prince, has said. There was no serious disagreement among the members of all parties on the main principles concerning broadcasting in Canada.

One can only deal with a small part of the large picture of broadcasting within the limits of a debate such as this one and therefore I will focus on one particular aspect of this matter which has to do with the objectives of broadcasting, what it is all about and the purpose of this extensive collection of talent and equipment in Canada. In my view the primary purpose of broadcasting is neither to

sell products nor to provide transmission facilities for programs coming from other countries. If these were the primary purposes we might as well ask the United States networks to do the job because they can do it very well.

The principal purpose of broadcasting in Canada is to produce Canadian programs of all types for Canadians. For some it would be Festival, for others Wayne and Shuster, for others Don Messer's Jubilee and for others Wojcek. All of these programs may be for the same people. In addition to these programs of entertainment there are public affairs programs both on the C.B.C. and more recently on the private network. I think we do them rather well in this country. However, the main point is the Canadian content in broadcasting.

● (4:00 p.m.)

This has been highlighted recently by the campaign which the Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists has mounted in this country to persuade the operators of the networks to put on more Canadian shows and hire more Canadian talent. It is not our place as parliamentarians to be organizers for any particular group. Our job is to say what we believe about broadcasting and what it has to do. We leave the job of organization to the broadcasters and to the performers. However, in their campaign during the last month or two these people have featured this point. I know there is quite an argument at the present time between the Canadian television networks and ACTRA concerning the accuracy of the figures ACTRA is using.

Quite apart from that, some facts do stand out. It is a fact that a great many talented Canadians have left to go elsewhere. It must be obvious, of course, that I am speaking particularly about the English language television network. It is a fact that Hollywood, New York and London are filled with Canadian performers who have left this country. Some of them would have moved on anyway but many have gone, and have said so, because work opportunities were not available in this country. I could take the time, but I will not, to read a list of such people.

It is a fact that there is not a great deal of Canadian content in the programs which occupy the prime television viewing time on the English language networks. I am being arbitrary here because I am speaking of the period between eight o'clock and ten o'clock in the evening. All you have to do is look at the

[Mr. MacDonald (Prince).]