

*Radio and Television*

like this can work in any way except in being based on established general principles.

The hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert) referred to the one-station system which is applied in Toronto and other places. If the inference or thought were in his mind I think it should be said that is not a matter for the C.B.C. per se. That is a matter of government policy which was laid down by the preceding government, and I think properly, at that time. It is a policy which has been carried on and maintained by this government. The C.B.C. as such, whatever it may or may not have benefited by it, depending on the circumstances, is not a matter of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation regulation. It is a policy of the government of Canada and, as I said once before, the time is rapidly approaching if not already here when the government will have to give careful consideration to a revision of that policy. My own thought would be that when that policy is revised, if it is, it would not be advisable to do it until such changes as are proposed in the legislation are brought into enactment and such bodies as may be created under that legislation are named and such regulations as they may decide upon are drafted and published because I do not think—and I am now expressing my own personal opinion and I think it is a reasonable one—that people, groups, corporations or syndicates can operate successfully without knowing the regulations under which they have to operate and once they get them it is hard to change the regulations afterwards. My own thinking for what it is worth would be that there will be no change in that policy for some little while yet at any rate and when the change is brought in regulations will have been adopted.

There has been a great deal of talk by some hon. members about licensing. I agree with the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate. Frankly, I think it is a minor matter. It is very important to the people who are looking for licences. It might be very awkward or damaging to the government or to any political organization which has to make the decision but actually, in so far as the national interests are concerned, it will not make so much difference whether the group of A, B and C get the licence or group D, E and F get it, provided that there are regulations laid down which will be operative, which will be known, which will be reasonable, which will have application and which will be enforced. If those regulations are promulgated by a body in whom the Canadian people have confidence and are the type of regulations that such a body would promulgate, then I do not think there

will be much trouble in dealing with the matter of licensing.

Something has been said about the use of the French language by radio and television stations. I quite agree with what has been said by hon. members in that connection. There have been French speaking stations authorized but not licensed with which the C.B.C. is proceeding this year. We have the station at Moncton about which hon. members have spoken from time to time. And the hon. gentleman spoke about it a moment ago. We have one at St. Boniface which has been authorized by the C.B.C. this year. We have the bilingual station to which the hon. member for Edmonton West referred a few moments ago. We have a bilingual station being licensed at New Carlisle, which is serving the northern area of New Brunswick and part of Quebec, and we are making and will continue to make progress in the extension of those French television and radio stations. The matter of finances is—I will not say embarrassing—a problem of great importance and of increasing importance every day. The costs are rising astronomically.

Something was said about the number of employees in the C.B.C. television stations as compared with private stations. I do not think any one of us who has gone into a C.B.C. station to make a telecast—I remember one night, sir, I happened to encounter you somewhere; it was a hot night; you were coming out as I was going in—has not been struck by the fact that as he went into the C.B.C. station he saw that the service was, shall we say, more adequately manned than was that of the private stations. Of course the C.B.C. is faced with unions, negotiations and contracts which may or may not be the explanation. The matter was delicately referred to by the hon. member for Edmonton West.

Although it is very pleasant to speak about the C.B.C. as we have, and as I certainly have done in the past and will again, yet we also have to pay tribute to the private stations, many of which in this country have carried their share of this national obligation in a very adequate way. There may be some exceptions; there are some who, armed with a disc jockey and a few records, would like nothing better than to play those records all day long and charge for them; but generally speaking I think it can be said that the private stations have recognized their responsibilities either to the local communities, particularly the smaller stations operating within the communities, or to the province or the nation, as the case may be. They are part, of course, of the integrated national system.