

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

The question of superannuation pensions is of great importance and a matter of continuing consideration on the part of the government.

**Mr. Knowles:** Why refer anything to committees if you do not pay any attention to their reports?

• (10:10 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

TELEVISION—REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICE IN LAC ST. JEAN CONSTITUENCY

**Mr. Alcide Simard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I shall read the question I put this afternoon to the hon. Minister of Transport:

Further to the representations made by the chamber of commerce of Alma, main centre of my riding, can the hon. minister tell us what steps he intends to take to improve the relay of C.B.C. programs by the station CKRS-TV of Jonquière-Kénogami?

Mr. Speaker, the reasons which prompted me to put that question to the hon. minister are, to my mind, very urgent because for a while now, the people back home deplore the inefficient relay of C.B.C. programs.

The facts which motivated that question can be found in the brief addressed to the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), of which he certainly has a copy.

I quote this excerpt from the brief presented by the Alma chamber of commerce:

The Jonquière station (CKRS) serves the people of Alma through channels 12 and 8, that is from the main station or from the Chambord satellite. In both cases, and we shall see why, black and white or colour reception leaves much to be desired, especially in the lower parts of the city and in certain areas such as Isle-Maligne and Maltais. The most highly perfected antennas—several citizens made the experiment—did not remedy the situation. On the other hand, the Chicoutimi station (CJPM)—

Incidentally, this is a private station.

—serves all the area through its facilities at Mont Sainte-Claire alone. Generally speaking, the black and white and colour reception is superior to that of CKRS-TV.

In a city like Alma, where thousands of people watch television, which constitutes a well of publicity from which the two regional T.V. stations draw abundantly, this is intolerable.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what are the causes of this poor reception? I shall quote further from the brief:

In the course of our survey, we questioned a good number of T.V. owners, technicians in electronics, people who work in the area.

On the strength of what they told us, and considering the fact that the problems related to the quality of relaying are far more acute through the

channels of the Jonquière station, we decided to limit our remarks to this station only for the time being.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who is responsible for this sad state of affairs? Here is what the brief has to say in this regard:

It is difficult to determine who is truly responsible for all this, because the frequencies are allocated by the federal Department of Transport. The owners of television stations have no jurisdiction over them. But, on the other hand, it is unfortunate that such inconveniences become noticeable only after the transmitters and antennas are installed. Their removal would no doubt, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Jonquière station.

I hope that it is fully realized the kind of expenses incurred by the owners of television sets who, having noticed a rather poor reception, called the dealer of the technician in order to find out why. Other people installed rather expensive antennas simply to come to the conclusion that the station itself, CKRS-TV, was in fact responsible.

And the brief concludes with these words:

After due consideration to all the arguments and facts mentioned above, the Alma Chamber of Commerce calls upon the federal Department of Transport to ask CKRS-TV station, which broadcasts the C.B.C. programs, to set up a microwave relay system as found everywhere else in the province of Quebec and in Canada.

I should like to know the attitude of the hon. Minister of Transport in this regard and ask him whether he can assure us that steps will be taken to correct it.

[*English*]

**Mr. J. A. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, this seems to be a matter that would more properly be directed to the Secretary of State, inasmuch as it deals with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I am in great sympathy with the hon. member for Lake St. John regarding his difficulty in sorting out the various television stations in his community. I wish some of the members from Quebec, Ontario and the more central regions would visit British Columbia and note the difficulties we are facing in the matter of providing television service. The C.B.C. and other private stations have been unable to provide service to communities of up to two and three thousand people. So that while I am in great sympathy with the hon. member I do want to assure him that his problem is certainly not unique.

On making inquiries this afternoon during the little time at my disposal I was informed that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has this matter under consideration and has