

Mr. Goode: On a point of order, if my hon. friend will allow me. We listened last night for an hour to the hon. gentleman who represents his party in this house speaking on the C.B.C., and the Liberal party kept a quorum in this house to allow the gentleman to speak. There are other parties—and I say this with all respect to my hon. friend from Prince Albert—there are other parties and other members who wish to speak in this debate, and I rather think we should take them in the right order. I understand that the C.C.F. party has a member to speak, the Social Credit party has a member to speak and, as you know, I shall have something to say at some time, but I rather think that my hon. friend should give way with regard to this matter.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I submit that those remarks are as untimely as they are unfair. You gave me the floor.

The Chairman: Order. After all, we are bound in this house by custom, and if a member wishes to speak he rises. The hon. member for Prince Albert was the only member who rose following the speech of the minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Apparently my hon. friend was not in the house to notice that nobody rose, and he made a gratuitous statement that is—

Mr. Goode: I have been in the house since 2.30.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have the floor. When my hon. friend takes the floor I shall listen to him, but at the moment I have the floor. I said a moment ago that the people of Canada are beginning to realize that some effective action must be taken with regard to this problem. I have before me an editorial in the *Windsor Daily Star* of yesterday's date, which sets out clearly and effectively an argument that is generally being more and more accepted by the Canadian people. I shall only quote one or two excerpts from it. It is entitled "C.B.C. Deficit":

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's deficit for the last fiscal year was \$1,358,000. But to that figure should be added the \$22,799,000 the corporation received in ear-marked revenue from the excise tax on radio and television sets and parts, and a \$6,200,000 government grant for radio. The state radio-television system, then, was in the red to the tune of more than thirty and one-quarter millions. And C.B.C. expects a bigger deficit this current fiscal year.

Many thoughtful Canadians must be uneasy over the widening stream of taxpayers' money that has been pouring into C.B.C. since the advent of television in Canada. Much of it goes to subsidize entertainment, some of it good, some bad.

I refer particularly to the situation with respect to television because I believe that

the policy that has been followed of local monopoly in television has been detrimental to Canadian television development. I say this because, as we approach the period when colour television is adopted and becomes more generally used, the amount of the present costs for television will be materially increased. Indeed, the general estimate, as I have read, of authorities in the United States has been that the increase is some 15 per cent over and above the costs of ordinary television. That means that more and more because of the present television policy Canadian taxpayers are being made to pay. My submission is: if a policy in keeping with television development in other parts of the world were inaugurated in this country, the taxpayer would in consequence not find himself mulcted to the extent that he is today.

I believe that more and more members of this house are coming to realize the need of a standard committee on broadcasting. I am not criticizing the minister for not having a committee set up this year, although there are some who disagree with my viewpoint in that regard. With the royal commission sitting, I did not seriously contest the stand taken. However, whatever the royal commission's recommendations may be, if there is no stop put to ever-mounting expenditures which appear to be uncontrolled, and if the recent trend continues upward in the same ratio, the cost to the Canadian people will within a period of five or six years be \$100 million a year. That is a serious situation and one that merits the consideration of parliament to a degree to which this matter has not been so heretofore.

I find it difficult to understand why the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, having available to it the best outlets in Canada, is continually in the red. In Toronto the C.B.C. operates two radio stations and one television station; in the city of Montreal, two radio stations and two television stations. Private stations make money.

Mr. McCann: Lots of money.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister says, "Lots of money." That being so with available outlets such as the C.B.C. has and with its programs and with almost a similar degree of advertising, why does the C.B.C. find itself year by year with increasing deficits?

Secondly, virtually every one of the corporation's other radio stations and all its television stations are in highly valuable commercial locations. What about the C.B.C. station in Vancouver? It should make profit. There is a private station in Bellingham, Washington, XVOS television station, based almost entirely on the Vancouver market,