

indeed expect to apply to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, this summer, for permission to instal a television transmitter at Sprague, Manitoba.

I come from an area where there are very few Liberals and consequently I have a tendency to believe them. Perhaps I am naive. It is a mistake I made. Perhaps I should not have believed them, because on November 3, 1978, I received a letter from the president of the CBC after most of 1978 had passed, and after criticizing the CBC. They had not made an application and they had not fulfilled the promise. They simply had not done it. The letter I received from Mr. A. W. Johnson, the president of the CBC, read in part as follows:

I am indeed sorry to confirm your fear that because of the new restraints on our budget Sprague is among a number of ACP projects which must be delayed until the necessary funds become available. At this early stage of deciding how budget cuts must be allocated within the corporation it is difficult to give you a firm date for the rescheduling of the Sprague project, but at the moment since this is a transmitter project of some magnitude, it looks as though it will now be included in both our 1980-1981 and 1981-1982 capital budgets, with probable implementation during the 1981-1982 fiscal year.

That letter referred to 1979 restraints back in 1978. Even that letter does not wash. That restraint program was not in effect. The Secretary of State, the CBC spokesman for parliamentary services, the president, and the parliamentary secretaries who have answered me twice, have not given the facts. They have promised, but they have never fulfilled. Now it is 1979, and the people of that area do not have coverage. Then to top it off, the unity task force indicated that every Canadian is entitled by right to television and radio access by the CBC. This is a small area of Canada which had television coverage before it was taken away by Bill C-58 of the government. The government said that it was going to give the area some other coverage. It has taken away the television coverage that area had, and has not given them the television coverage paid for by taxpayers.

On January 26 the minister indicated that he would give me a reply. On behalf of the petitioners, the people of Sprague and the area, I am waiting not only for a positive reply but for some positive action.

Mr. Frank Maine (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the CBC's accelerated coverage plan is designed to ensure that CBC radio and television service will be extended to all communities where 500 or more people are unserved or inadequately served in the appropriate language.

● (2220)

The ACP is implemented under a strict formula system of priorities which takes into account such factors as population, capital and operating expenses, provincial equalization, and geographic and cultural isolation. Implementation is in this way as fair and equitable as it can be made. All communities identified for inclusion in the ACP are listed according to their priority under this formula, and "community" in this case also means minorities within a larger language group, such as the French-speaking population of Thunder Bay and the English-speaking population of Chicoutimi.

Adjournment Debate

Provision of funds for the implementation of the ACP is made within the CBC's regular capital and operating budgets. As for the plan itself, it was originally to be completed in the period 1974 to 1979. A number of factors, however, have brought about a stretching out of that period by approximately three years.

Those factors include: a sharp rise in costs—they are now approximately double the 1975 estimate—the difficulty of finding enough qualified technical personnel for the installation of the more than 600 transmitters involved in the plan; delays in the production by the electronics industry of the necessary equipment, and budget constraints in 1978-79 and 1979-80.

Under the accelerated coverage plan it is intended to establish English television service at Sprague, Manitoba, which is included in Group 100 of the ACP priority list.

Because of the workload and budget cuts, implementation of some ACP projects has fallen behind the original timetable set out for the more than 600 transmitters involved in the plan, and it is now hoped that the Sprague transmitter project, which is one of some magnitude, will be included in the CBC's 1980-81 and 1981-82 capital budgets, with probable implementation during the 1981-82 fiscal year.

The CBC regrets that due to these circumstances which are beyond its control it is not possible to provide the Group 100 service at the time the corporation had originally hoped and expected to do so. The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp) may be assured, however, that Sprague is in the same relative position on the priority list as it has always been, and that no projects which came after it on the list have been moved ahead of it.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—GUIDELINES FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, basic to an effective research and development effort in secondary manufacturing is a national industrial policy. Canada's industrial research and development effort is strangely out of step in the industrialized world in which Canadian products must compete. The business sector in Canada provides only about one third of research and development expenditures compared to figures of 40 per cent to 50 per cent for most industrialized countries. In addition, the business sector in Canada performs about 40 per cent of research and development compared to 50 per cent to 65 per cent for business sectors in most advanced countries.

In 1978 the government made some serious attempts to stimulate research and development, both through increased federal funding and through tax incentives. A major goal announced by the minister in June was an increase in gross expenditure for research and development to 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product by 1983. Critics pointed out that to attain this goal research and development expenditures in industry would have to grow by an average of 19 per cent each