

NEW PRIVATE TV OUTLET

The following is a partial text of an address by Transport Minister Léon Balcer at the official inauguration of Television Station CFTM-TV, Montreal, on February 19:

"...The Government understands that a friendly rivalry is an excellent thing. That is why it decided a few months ago to recommend to the Board of Broadcast Governors that they permit the establishment of a second television station in the principal cities of the country. We have therefore, nowadays, the advantage of witnessing new initiatives from which we may hope for great things. You will readily admit that it was natural that Montreal occupy a special position in this respect, in view of the cohabitation of its two main ethnic groups.

"I am not expressing anything new when I say that television is playing a more and more important role in our home-life. It is here to stay and can contribute very effectively to raising the intellectual and artistic level of our fellow citizens. Without denying the important and well-established role of the newspaper, it is easy to see that the radio and, more recently, television contribute in large measure to the rapid and accurate diffusion of information to the public. Through its discussion programmes, television provides a mass of ideas and permits each individual to develop his own point of view. Through its entertainment programmes, it adds to the enjoyment of life and gives its spectators the benefits of a healthy recreation at the end of a day's labours. It does not seem to me at all exaggerated to assert that television plays a social role of first importance and, on this basis, must assume ever-increasing responsibilities.

MAKING TV HISTORY

"Tele-Metropole adds a new page to the history of Canadian television. The company has been able to gather together much talent; people of experience and vision who will try to fulfil to the best of their ability the obligations which they are today assuming. We have every reason to expect that this new and carefully-planned service will enjoy the success which it deserves. I will only add that I am very pleased to think that this organization has established its headquarters right in the heart of the French-Canadian sector which it is called upon to serve....

"We live in a system of mixed economy. Without repudiating the private initiative which assured our country's destiny, we have all come to the conclusion that the state, in turn, has its active role to play. It follows that in numerous fields there exists a legitimate competition between private institutions and state organisms. As you know, that is how it is with radio and television. I am inclined to think that this situation is

beneficial and that it adds considerably to the service on which the population can draw. Side by side, completing each other, state and private television can accomplish excellent work.

"I should add that, at the present time, one aspect in particular which interests me is that we have a large number of interpreters, announcers, commentators and technicians today who have a good profession. The creation of a new station can only serve to extend their field of operation and guarantee them an honorable means of livelihood. This source of benefits must not be neglected...."

FINNISH PRESIDENT TO VISIT

Prime Minister Diefenbaker made the following announcement on February 16:

"On the occasion of presentation of his Letters of Credence as first Ambassador of Canada to Finland, Mr. Harrison Cleveland conveyed a message of greeting from the Prime Minister which included an invitation to the President of Finland and Mrs. Kekkonen to visit Canada.

"The President has now informed the Prime Minister of his acceptance of this invitation. At this time he is unable to state when he can come to Canada but it is hoped that the visit will take place next autumn.

"The Ambassador has also conveyed a message from the Governor-General expressing His Excellency's pleasure upon learning of the President's acceptance of the Prime Minister's invitation and inviting Mrs. Kekkonen and himself to stay at Government House during their days in Ottawa.

"A further announcement will be made as soon as mutually convenient dates have been established."

CANADA - U.S. TAX CONVENTION

Mr. Donald Fleming, Minister of Finance, announced recently that a convention had been concluded between Canada and the United States of America for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on estates. The instrument was signed in Washington on February 17 by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. A.D.P. Heeney, and the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk.

This convention is additional to the previously existing convention between Canada and the United States, signed June 8, 1944, which continues to apply to the estates of persons who died before January 1, 1959. The new convention applies to the estates of persons dying on or after that date -- the date on which the Canadian Estate Tax Act superseded the Dominion Succession Duty Act. It follows the general pattern of the 1944 convention between Canada and the United States and the