

Speech from the Throne

from a Canadian distributor for full English television network release. This is not applicable to the case we are considering. The excuse of the CBC in that case is that the rights are controlled in the United States.

The second situation mentioned relates to television series produced in Canada and acquired by the CBC from a Canadian distributor for full English television network release. Again, the CBC puts the blame on someone else. The Corporation says that the Canadian producer normally tries to insist on arrangements being made to eliminate Windsor and thus to maximize profits from a United States sale. The third situation the CBC mentions concerns television series produced in Canada and co-financed or co-produced by the CBC. The Corporation says that in this case the CBC acquires Canadian television rights but usually defers its Windsor rights. The report added:

In order to attract production capital it is essential that United States market possibilities be enhanced. In the view of the CBC the encouragement of private production companies is an important consideration in the development of Canadian content.

The implication of this recital seems to be that these are the only situations in which the Windsor station would be denied CBC programs. But this is not so, because in the instance I am raising, the series represents a wholly CBC production costing \$2 million of the taxpayers' money. This is not one of the cases which the Corporation mentioned. It is much more extreme than any they have attempted to defend in the past. Yet the same policy has been followed as was followed before. The explanation given is completely untenable—the encouragement of private production companies. No private production company is involved in this case.

In any event, the priorities and responsibilities of the CBC cannot be justified in commercial terms alone. The Corporation's charter, established by this parliament, assigned to that body certain broad objectives; one thinks in general terms of the promotion of Canadian culture. The Corporation is certainly not living up to its obligation to support Canadian culture in the Windsor area.

I have sponsored a private member's notice of motion requesting that this policy of denying or delaying the showing in Windsor of television programs in order that they may be sold more profitably to networks in the United States be referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. I hope I shall have an early opportunity to discuss this matter in the House and that the subject will be referred to the standing committee in order that an investigation of the situation can be made.

In particular, the people of Windsor ought to know whether the CBC intends to change its policy when it becomes the full owner of the station. President Davidson made a statement to the effect that at such a time the CBC would treat the Windsor station in the same way as all other stations. This is something I should like to have on the public record.

I think the citizens of Windsor would also be interested to know whether the border protection clause normally attached to hockey programs in Canada is to be discontinued. As a result of such a clause Windsor is presently being denied the opportunity to watch most games because of the refusal of the NHL to allow these programs

[Mr. MacGuigan.]

to be shown within a certain radius of Detroit. The people of Windsor will be interested to learn whether or not at this point the CBC will take a firm line with the NHL and say that if this organization will not allow such programs to be shown in Windsor they will not be shown anywhere else in Canada.

I believe the people of Windsor and the Canadian public generally would also wish to know why the CBC has decided to wait another three and one half years before fulfilling its obligations to the Windsor area. Why does the Corporation not want to change its policy right now?

Another thing we want to know is this: For how many pieces of silver are the rights of the citizens of Windsor being sold to the United States? In the past the Corporation has tried to conceal this information, but I think the people have a right to know just what profit has been forthcoming in consequence of this decision to deprive Windsor of its share of Canadian cultural opportunity.

• (1420)

I think this whole question is one not only for the CBC but also for the CRTC and the government. There is a passage in the Speech from the Throne, reported on page 3 of *Hansard*, which reads as follows:

Still another form of isolation springs from indifferent communications services. It is a matter of concern to the Government that at this moment many communities do not receive the national broadcasting service—

I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that the Windsor area was not in mind at the time that this passage was written, but it seems to me to apply very much to the citizens of Windsor. The service the CBC is giving the citizens of Windsor is indifferent in every sense. It is indifferent because the CBC appears to be indifferent to the interests of the people of Windsor.

In conclusion, I merely wish to say that the Speech from the Throne has effectively analysed the problem of isolation and the right remedies to correct that problem. May I express the hope that the television isolation in Windsor will soon be seen as part of the total Canadian problem.

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, may I say initially what a pleasure it is to be able to participate in the Throne Speech debate. I have always found such debates very interesting because they give one the chance to listen to the problems that arise in the different ridings across the country, an opportunity that many of the other debates held in the House do not afford.

I should like to congratulate the mover and seconder. I know the mover rather well. There have been many times when I have admired what he said and certainly we all appreciate his remarks, just as we appreciate the remarks of a lot of other government members. However, it is unfortunate that when the occasion presents itself these hon. members do not vote in accordance with their stated principles, and I am afraid this is to the detriment of democracy.

The prime areas of concern in my part of the country I do not think are that much different from those of any other area of Canada. Inflation is one of the major causes of serious concern. The agriculture industry across the country has not kept pace with the rising prices that have been so common both in industry and in labour in gener-