

*Radio and Television*

people. Well, that is the sort of thing this regulatory board in Canada could be open to.

As a matter of fact I would almost think the government might consider, in connection with the question of additional television licences in the rich markets, that those people should have to come right into the House of Commons in committee to state their case. If that were done we would at least know that all sides of the argument would be heard and there would not be pressures exerted or any favours passed.

This may be a rather gloomy anticipation of Canadian moral integrity in such boards or the kind of pressures that would be applied; but when the awarding of licences itself is worth several million dollars—that is the potential in several cases in Canada—there is no question but that the pressures could be very sharp. It means that the regulatory board set-up is something that should be considered very closely.

The final point I want to touch on was brought up in French last night, and I am going only by the translation of the speech by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm. To read his speech, Mr. Speaker, is to feel that we have Rev. Mr. Hansell back in the house again. That may be good or bad. There seems to be in certain parts of this country a completely different attitude toward morality and censorship than in other parts of the country. But the point raised by the hon. member—and the Deputy Speaker did try to remind him that he was moving away from the point of the amendment—is one that I think deserves some discussion. I hope the discussion will rid the whole idea right out of the premises.

I refer to the idea that it is the job of the board that is to be associated with the C.B.C. to be a screener of morals. The protests of the hon. gentlemen were placed more or less in two categories. He is concerned about morality in the sense of sexual licence, nudity and that form, and he is also concerned with morality in the fact that certain deviationists are undermining our whole social structure by moving us toward the left. Again this was the cry of Rev. Mr. Hansell when he was in this house. The C.B.C. was in the hands of leftists. We were continually under a barrage of leftist campaigning in certain forms.

I think the hon. member is entitled to his opinion, but I would just like to explain why some people, especially people who have what I would call reactionary views, feel that the C.B.C. is leftist. I think the C.B.C. has attracted to itself and will continue to attract a great many highly educated people, especially from English Canada. I think these highly educated people from English Canada, in their contacts, go out for people who they

know have certain controversial ideas, or can give a certain analysis of various circumstances, be they economists, historians, sociologists or what have you. They bring these people to the C.B.C. If they happen to be leftists, I would just like to remind hon. members it may indicate that amongst the academic community, in the ivory towers of this country, there may be people who feel that that is the way to go.

Now, they want to do something about blocking them. I would suggest that they encourage the people with the right wing view to become articulate. It has always been the mark of a conservative—I am not thinking about the Progressive Conservative—to be inarticulate. You will notice that in all their restatements they always hark back to the one great spokesman they had in the English-speaking world, namely Edmund Burke. If you want the other point of view, get articulate. I would remind the hon. member that even the C.B.C. had Mr. Hansell on the "Viewpoint" program, offering criticism.

I always felt that the question of the C.B.C. being composed of a pack of socialists has been overstressed. I know that any time, I, thinking of myself as a socialist, have encountered people from the C.B.C. I have found a great deal of contradiction of statements I made. I cannot speak for the French language network, but I certainly want to assure the hon. member who made the protest that among the people connected with the English language network whom I have met there have been a great many who have opposed my views, and therefore I would assume that they are not completely dominated by the socialist ideology. Of course I would hesitate to acknowledge that I am completely dominated.

I think it is very dangerous that a member should rise and emphasize the matter of censorship so far as the C.B.C. is concerned. I hope during the debate there will be speeches by other members of the house that will restate the need for free expression of public opinion. You can quote Milton's *Areopagitica* in relation to censorship; but I always think of one sentence he wrote; that you cannot understand good unless you know evil. By knowing evil he meant just knowing what it was. I think that pertains pretty well to what we see on C.B.C. programs. If our young people cannot be trusted to look at a girl in a scanty pair of shorts or with a certain amount of cleavage, then I say we might as well throw up our hands and give up on our young people.

**Mr. Thomas:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Fisher:** Certainly.

[Mr. Fisher.]