

their money. That will impact on their pensions and those who have savings in credit unions. All these moves indicate that the Government is doing a good job in trying to help people in the country and in trying to help solve all of the problems.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that this Bill is not one which will be overwhelmingly popular with people. However, the people of Canada are realistic. Notwithstanding the fact that they understand this Bill will increase the tax load on them, they know that we have to do this if we are to solve the two major problems of the country. First, we must put people back to work. Second, we must get our deficit under control.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please! It being 5.12 p.m., the House will now proceed to consideration of Private Members' Business as listened on today's Order Paper.

● (1710)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS— MOTIONS

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

SUGGESTED REBROADCASTING OF HOUSE OF COMMONS PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of recommending to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation the feasibility of rebroadcasting the daily proceedings of the House of Commons *in toto* during the evening hours.

He said: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) for supporting my motion, something for which I am most grateful to him. It is very important for the House to understand the meaning of this motion, to wit, that the Government and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should consider the advisability of rebroadcasting during the evenings hours the daily proceedings of the House of Commons. I want to make it clear that the House does not intend, in my view, to issue instructions or orders to the CBC, but is simply asking it to cooperate with the Government of Canada in that feasibility study for the ultimate purpose of rebroadcasting during the evening hours the daily proceedings of the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, it was on February 10, 1977, that the House of Commons decided to broadcast its daily proceedings, so that on October 17 of that year, a number of communities started watching these proceedings on their television sets.

[English]

The first community to receive the televised proceedings of the House of Commons was the City of Ottawa, and after that the City of Toronto. By the end of one year, there were 80 cable

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

operators throughout this country televising the proceedings of the House of Commons so that the people of Canada could in fact see what was going on in the House of Commons and understand how this country is directed.

There are now 450 different cable operators across the country who are televising the proceedings of the House of Commons. In the constituency which I represent the town of Rockland is now able to see the proceedings in the House of Commons live every day and I am told by my constituents that they are quite pleased that this service is now available to them. I could be partisan and say that they are not pleased in seeing the Government, but they are pleased to see the House of Commons in action. However, this is not a partisan motion and I will skip that portion at this time.

Something of which we should all be aware is that although the proceedings of the House of Commons are watched by approximately 100,000 people every week, there is a much larger number of people who watch the repeat of Question Period at six o'clock p.m. or 6.15 o'clock p.m. every day and an even larger number of people, for instance, who live in the Province of Ontario, watch the rebroadcast of Question Period at 11.15 o'clock p.m. on TV Ontario.

A very interesting statistic has come to my attention. The audience watching Question Period and the proceedings of the House of Commons is largely composed of senior citizens according to a study conducted by the Library of Parliament. This is, of course, very understandable because at the time of day when Parliament is in session, most people are out working in order to earn a living and, of course, cannot be at home to watch the televised proceedings.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, we know also that the rating in the afternoon is approximately 10 per cent for adult viewers and that in the evening, depending on the hour, it varies between 30 or 40 per cent, which means that we could, by rebroadcasting the daily proceedings of the House of Commons during the evening hours, make it possible for a much greater number of Canadians to watch Parliament at work.

[English]

When the House begins the day at 11 o'clock a.m., it is 12.30 o'clock in Newfoundland and eight o'clock a.m. in Vancouver. Of course, at those times of the day very few people are home to watch the televised proceedings of the House of Commons. If we were to repeat the televised proceedings of the House of Commons in the evening, commencing at a time somewhere around 6.30 o'clock p.m. Ottawa time—which would be eight o'clock p.m. in Newfoundland and 3.30 o'clock p.m. in Vancouver—needless to say the number of people who could view the televised proceedings of the House of Commons would be far greater. Another interesting fact which has been noted in some reports is the fact that if the House proceedings were televised in a retransmission at a later time in the day, the proceedings could be indexed. In other words, it could be known at the beginning what topics were discussed that day because of the fact that it would be a retransmission. The