

supplementary to the series of questions asked a little earlier. The Minister has assured the House that if you live in a bar or in the bush you can watch a satellite dish, but if you live in a senior citizens' highrise or a co-op apartment, you cannot.

The Minister has obviously come out in favour of cable companies to protect their economic interests. Since he has dedicated himself to protecting the profitability of the cable companies, what plans does he have in mind for the cable companies to contribute to the broadcasting industry in some way through tax incentives, or revisions of the Copyright Act, an amount equivalent to the protection they are getting from the Minister?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, the method that we have opted for is one of reinforcing the Canadian broadcasting system as a whole by making a fund available to independent program producers who, having obtained a distribution agreement either from the private sector broadcasters or public sector broadcasting, can then make a draw on the fund.

As far as cable operators are concerned, our general analysis of the situation is to the effect that, in order to meet the competition that will undoubtedly come from dishes, which will really be the competition for the cable operators in this country, the cable operators on the whole will have to modernize their plant. They will have to get into two-way television. They will also have to offer a variety of new services, both programming and non-programming services, to their subscribers. We feel that with that type of situation the cable operators will not only survive but will be able to compete very effectively with any of the new technology.

I would like to add that this is the same analysis that has been made in other countries, to wit, France, which this year is cabling 27 cities, and Great Britain where the Hunt Report recommends that in the face of the new technology, DBS technology, that country should also go cable, as is the case at the moment in Germany and Austria.

FUNDING FOR CBC PROGRAMMING

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, there are a number of comments and questions that a person could ask about the Minister's mythical fund. We really do not know anything about it. It provides loans and partial equity, but we really do not know how it is going to go over, and how it will work. In fact we do not even have the fund. It is all somewhere in the distant future, like the minister's mind and his decision.

The Minister calls upon the CBC to provide more Canadian content, and he knows very well that the necessity for Canadian content is so the CBC can compete with all the other agencies which deliver signals. Since Canadian content is based on the amount of money which the CBC can spend on programming, I would like the Minister to take that quantum

Presence in Gallery

leap and tell the House today what he plans to do to improve the viability and financial backing of CBC programming?

• (1425)

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member will remember, undoubtedly, the Applebaum-Hébert Commission had a number of far-reaching recommendations concerning the CBC. One of those recommendations was that the CBC make a greater effort to increase the amount of programming which it contracts out to the private sector. If the Hon. Member reads the document which I tabled in the House yesterday he will see that the CBC can indeed have a call via the private production sector on that fund, and that call can be up to one-half of that fund, that is, up to 30 million new dollars.

SATELLITE RECEPTION IN MOTEL PREMISES

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister, and it is in respect of his announcement yesterday on satellite dishes and how they will affect hotel owners and so on. I read in *The Citizen* this morning that Item 3 of his four proposals would affect hotels and motels. Would the Minister tell us if hotel and motel owners will be allowed to direct incoming signals into rooms throughout their premises instead of into one central room where guests would have to go to view it rather than in the privacy of their own rooms?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I tabled the document in the House yesterday. If I may be so bold, I suggest to the Hon. Member that instead of simply reading a newspaper account of this he should take the trouble to read the original. If he reads the original, he will see that we have eliminated the requirement for licences for TVRO's which are used for individual purposes. We are also exempting from the licensing requirement certain categories of commercial establishments such as bars, one of which the Hon. Member mentioned before, where the signal is simply displayed for the convenience of the patrons. In the case of redistribution of signals to rooms, or redistribution of signals to various apartments which will be part of a complex, then the MATV rules will apply and would require an application to the CRTC for a licence.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS

Madam Speaker: I would like to welcome to the presence in our Gallery of the Standing Committee on Procedural Affairs of Ontario, which is Chaired by Mr. George Kerr.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!