

of independence will result in a disruption of the present functioning of the system. The government is placing itself in a position that will promote the perception in the general public and in the industry of favouritism through political means. The public and the industry expect the CRTC to look at all views without interference. This objective is compromised under this new legislation.

• (2130)

The CRTC is strongly opposed to the dual power of cabinet. In its presentation to the legislative committee it pointed out the consequences of giving these powers to cabinet, and I quote: "The government of the day needs an independent regulator in broadcasting if it does not want to find itself besieged by long lines of petitioners and complainants who, perceiving the commission to have become a mere anti-chamber of power, would ignore the commission's public procedures in favour of lobbying within private cabinet corridors. It could also lead to a belief that decisions, some of them of fundamental consequences, are not being made in a dispassionate way, openly, and in the interests of the communications system as a whole, but are being dictated or influenced by parochial political pressures".

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I apologize but I am not sure if the member intends to speak for 20 minutes or to split his time with his colleague.

Mr. Wood: I intend to speak for 10 minutes and I would like to share the time with my fellow member from the Arctic.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): One moment please! I would like to make sure that this is understood. You want to speak for ten minutes and your colleague as well. In that case, I must cut you short and recognize the other member, if that is what was agreed. Does the House agree?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): In that case, I recognize the hon. member for Western Arctic for a 10-minute period.

[English]

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I would have preferred to defer to my colleague because he is so learned and eloquent on the matters of broadcasting, being a former broadcaster, if one can ever be a former broadcaster, for that matter.

Government Orders

In relation to Bill C-40, I have three major concerns with this new broadcasting legislation. There is no legislative base because the amendments were defeated in three areas: the CBC northern services, no legislation or amendment for the use of aboriginal languages although there is reference in the text of the Broadcasting Act to it, and no legislation for CBC's contribution to the development of national unity. I find that quite sad and quite a sorry statement for the institution of national unity.

I would like to establish a case for there being an amendment with reference to CBC northern services. I cannot understand why there is no legislation for the CBC northern services. CBC northern services are responsible for CBC services throughout Yukon, Northwest Territories, and northern Quebec, over one-quarter of the land mass of Canada. What does that include in the Northwest Territories? Most communities in the N.W.T. receive both radio and television service. Anti D satellite capacity is leased by the CBC to carry radio and television signals for the Northwest Territories. Through CBC's accelerated coverage program, all communities with a population of over 500 now have a satellite receiving dish and low-level transmitter. Similar equipment is supplied to communities of under 500 through the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Culture and Communications.

The CBC operates four radio production stations in the Northwest Territories. Programming is produced in Yellowknife for the Mackenzie region, Inuvik for the Mackenzie Delta, Iqaluit for Baffin Island and Eastern Arctic, and Rankin Inlet for the Keewatin.

Yellowknife, Inuvik, and Iqaluit produce daily northern newscasts and current affairs programs in English and a variety of northern aboriginal languages. General programming is a mix of northern and national production. The CBC access policy provides equipment, training, and access to CBC radio transmitters to allow remote communities to turn off CBC and substitute their own programming.

Some 30 community radio services are in operation. There is one commercial AM radio station in the Northwest Territories, in Yellowknife. A commercial cable television company also operates in Yellowknife with 10 channels supplied to subscribe to through satellite. Local programming is produced and pay television is available in Hay River, Fort Smith, Iqaluit, Inuvik who also have cable television. CBC television has northern production studios in Yellowknife, and national programming is uplinked from Toronto on two channels. Inuit Broadcasting Corporation with production studios in Iqaluit has been given access to the eastern Arctic,