

*Interim Supply*

hearing that was held and will make some reference to it. I may say this is sessional paper 129A.

The feeling of the people in the interlake area was if the antenna were located north of Winnipeg it would serve all the interlake district. It would appear that there is little cooperation between the Department of Transport and the C.B.C. It now appears that most of the land within 25 miles north of Winnipeg is restricted to antenna heights which would not be suitable. This is most unfortunate and does not make for good planning. Subsequently the board of broadcast governors approved the application for the Starbuck site.

During the hearing, officials of the C.B.C. indicated their reason for wanting the Starbuck site was because it would serve a heavier populated area than the Argyle site. This, they said, was their only reason. By locating at Starbuck, the so-called "B contour" will reach 20 miles into the United States. The area south of Winnipeg is served by the private station CJOY, Winnipeg, whose antenna is located at Ste. Agathe, Manitoba. The southwestern part of the province is served by Brandon, and there is a station just inside the U.S. border at Pembina. People in this part of Manitoba will have several choices of t.v. station, while people in the northern part of the interlake area will still be without television.

I maintain that the principle adopted here by the C.B.C. is wrong. It should have been its first duty to provide service to the people who at present are excluded. Every taxpayer in Canada is a shareholder in the C.B.C. and every shareholder is entitled to equal service.

I have asked questions in the house with regard to this changeover and wish to make brief reference to them. The questions are to be found at page 1218 of the 1963 *Hansard* and 2707 of *Hansard* for April 29, 1964. In the first question, I asked:

1. Did the B.B.G. approve a C.B.C. application for an increase in the effective radiated power, a change in channel, and a change of antenna site, of station CBWT, Winnipeg, Manitoba?

The answer was yes. In the second part of the question I asked:

2. If so, when was approval given and what changes are proposed in regard to video, audio, channel and antenna?

The answer to that part was:

The application was for an increase in effective radiated power from 57,800 watts ERP (video), 34,700 watts ERP (audio), to 100,000 watts ERP (video), 50,000 watts ERP (audio), a change in channel from channel 3 to channel 6 and an increase in the effective height above average terrain from 196 feet to 1,027 feet. The board's recom-

[Mr. Stefanson.]

mendation for the approval of this application was contained in its public announcement of April 18, 1962.

One of the questions I asked was:

What site was chosen for the location of the new antenna; when was the property purchased, from whom, and at what cost?

The site chosen, I was informed, is at Starbuck, Manitoba. I asked whether any other sites were considered. The answer to this question was: "Yes, and the most suitable site acquired". Well, the C.B.C. said it would serve the most heavily populated area, but it will not provide a service in a large part of the northern area of Manitoba.

Another question I asked was when work on the project would be completed, and the answer given was, October, 1964. Mr. Chairman, we are near the end of October, now, and so far this change has not taken place.

On April 29 I asked further questions. I again asked when it was expected that the new service would come into operation and the answer, once more, was October, 1964. I asked, also:

Will this changeover improve television reception for the interlake area of Manitoba and, if not, how soon can one expect action to be taken to bring about this much needed improvement?

The answer to this question was:

It is anticipated that some areas of the interlake region will receive an improved reception but it is not possible to guarantee reception in specific areas.

I had also asked:

Should these changes fail to bring about an improvement in television viewing in the interlake area, what action will the C.B.C. or the B.B.G. take?

The answer was:

The corporation intends to conduct a survey of reception in the area following the completion of the proposed changes. The results of this survey will be used to determine what action if any should be taken.

At the hearing the C.B.C. officials made it abundantly clear that they could not guarantee that this change would improve the service in the interlake area. The applicants expressed the fear that if they did not get reception as a result of this changeover they would be left without television for many years to come. Remember, this is an area right in the middle of Manitoba; it is not an outlying area; it is not an area in the north. Surely, a situation like this should not be allowed to exist.

I wish to quote briefly at this point from the transcript of the hearing as reported in sessional paper No. 129. Mr. Pearson, for the