

providing television to people who already enjoy it. I do not feel we should consider \$15 million as an exorbitant sum to provide this service to the rest of the taxpayers of Canada.

I returned this week from a visit to my constituency. One of the purposes of my visit was to attend a meeting called by the chambers of commerce of northern Manitoba. The purpose of the meeting was to present further briefs to the government, the corporation and the B.B.G. requesting the extension of C.B.C. television services into these areas. At the meeting there were representatives of chambers of commerce in one constituency who live 500 to 600 miles apart. The meeting was well attended. These representatives met three weeks ago at another point in the constituency and in about two weeks they will be meeting again. A delegation will come to Ottawa—I do not know the size of the delegation but it will be about a dozen people—to try to impress upon the corporation, the government and the B.B.G. the necessity for this type of action.

In conclusion I should like to compliment the hon. member for Meadow Lake for bringing this resolution before the house. He has my full support. I hope all members on the government side will impress upon their colleagues the necessity for providing this money to the corporation to enable the corporation to do this job.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to compliment the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Cadieu) upon the introduction of this measure. I believe he is attempting, through public address, to do what I have been working earnestly to do more or less privately. I find there is not a large number of members of the House of Commons who are concerning themselves with this problem. During the past three years I have undertaken to communicate with the C.B.C., the Board of Broadcast Governors, the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and the members of his cabinet in an endeavour to have a decision made to undertake immediately full television coverage for all taxpayers in Canada. I believe that I have met with some measure of success.

● (6:20 p.m.)

I should like also to compliment the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Simpson) since he has been consistently bringing this matter before the house. As I said, I believe I have

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been somewhat successful in my representations. I must say that, knowing the members of the Fowler Committee, I made a practice of communicating rather frequently and asking them to make a recommendation to the government with regard to this matter. I believe my representations were somewhat successful because the Fowler Committee has made a recommendation that such coverage be undertaken by the C.B.C.

The hon. member's resolution requests that this parliament ask the C.B.C. to undertake this very expensive project. There is no question of course, that this means that over the next five years something like \$15 million to \$20 million will be required in order to provide television coverage only to communities of 2,000 people or more. This again falls far short of providing television coverage to all taxpayers of Canada but it is a step in the right direction.

This parliament and the government must make provision for the \$15 million to \$20 million that will be required. Much as we would like to, neither members of parliament nor the government can insist that the C.B.C. undertake this project. After all, it is an autonomous body which decides in its wisdom whether it will or will not provide the services demanded by the Canadian public. It seems to me it will require a special vote of the house to set aside a fund for this specific purpose, one not for the general use of the C.B.C.

I, too, felt some consternation when the C.B.C. said—I have not heard any announcement by the government—that there would be colour television in Canada by October this year. When I was pressing the former secretary of state some time ago for a statement on the part of the government as to the intentions in this regard, he said that colour television would not have priority over extension of television service to the outlying districts of Canada. Undoubtedly because of pressure of other matters we have not had a decision either on the part of the government or on the part of the C.B.C. whether they intend to process these areas before embarking upon colour television.

I suppose most hon. members who have concerned themselves with this matter know that the C.B.C. has a formula under which it operates with regard to providing television coverage to outlying communities. It determines the cost per capita and from there it determines which area will have priority. It may be that an area of 3,000 population will