

Television

facilities and will rent them out on an annual rental fee basis. This is what the C.B.C. have been doing so far; but we do, as I say, have a microwave system in the north now.

Many of the people also believe that the obligation of the crown corporation is to serve areas where private enterprise does not seem too interested to come in. Some feel that the C.B.C. must have the lucrative areas. There are two schools of thought. Personally, I think the C.B.C. should give more attention to servicing the areas which private enterprise has not shown a great deal of interest in and possibly make a further change in their plans in the lucrative areas. I say this, because section 8 of the Canadian Broadcasting Act says:

The corporation shall carry on a national broadcasting service within Canada and for that purpose may:

- (a) maintain and operate broadcasting stations;
- (b) establish, subject to approval of the governor in council, such stations as the corporation may from time to time consider necessary to give effect to the provisions of this act.

I say that subparagraph (b) relates to the first part. It says that the corporation shall carry on a national broadcasting service within Canada. It is my feeling that in order to carry on adequately a national broadcasting service, those areas that private enterprise have not shown too much interest to go into should be given full and possibly even first consideration.

We come now to the matter of private enterprise in our area. I might say that their activities have been very welcome as far as most of us are concerned but at the present time I think they are adding a certain amount of confusion to the issue. In talking about private enterprise I should like to start by saying that a year ago apparently there was no interest on the part of private enterprise in going into the area. However, times have changed.

A little over a year ago a firm named Northwest Electronics Limited came into the area and tried to interest people in the installation by the firm of a low power relay system. These people went to Flin Flon but were not able to do too much there. They had a promotional idea involving the setting up of the equipment and turning it over to a community organization. The idea did not take fire at all. I could not see it myself because it was too much of a promotional venture.

However, just before the last provincial election this firm made a deal of some kind with the former Manitoba government under which the company would endeavour to put television into the Dauphin area and if they were successful they were going to go into

Churchill to try to interest people there. Perhaps I might refer to an editorial in the *Winnipeg Tribune* of February 26, 1959 dealing with the activities of this company. The editorial reads as follows:

Manitoba is now paying \$15,000 for one of the last minute election follies of the Campbell government. As an inducement to the people of northern Manitoba to vote for Liberal candidates, the former government promised to extend television into the north.

An arrangement was made with a private firm to test a system of relay towers to Dauphin, an arrangement so hurried that it was not even recorded in a regular contract, only in a letter by the former minister of industry and commerce. The test has ended in failure. But according to the terms of the letter, the province committed itself to pay the company \$15,000 even if the system proved unworkable.

The present government considers itself morally bound to pay this amount. This is a proper recognition that a government must honour even the hasty and unwise commitments of its predecessor. But from the fiasco Manitoba can learn a lesson. Television is a federal matter, not a provincial responsibility. If television can be taken into northern Manitoba, the C.B.C. should take it there, not the province.

The announcement that this attempt had failed, which was made only about four weeks ago, brought about further interest on the part of private enterprise in this area. The first interest noted came from the station in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, which announced that it was going to apply for a licence to construct a satellite station in the Duck mountains to service the Swan River and Dauphin area. Then there was an announcement by the operators of the Brandon television station who said that they were going to apply for permission to build four television stations, one at Dauphin, one at Swan River, one at The Pas and one at Flin Flon if the C.B.C. would agree to pay the annual rental charges of a microwave system to that area. Later the radio station at Flin Flon made an announcement which clarified the policy of that station definitely for the people of that area.

As I said before, all these things are of tremendous interest to us but I think that with them all coming at one time they are creating a certain amount of confusion and I should like to suggest a way to clear up the confusion. To bring out the point I want to make I should like to refer to a news item in the *Dauphin Herald* of March 12. It reads as follows:

Dauphin town council went on record Monday night with a resolution urging the board of broadcast governors to expedite the processing of applications for establishment of television broadcasting facilities in the Dauphin area and northern Manitoba. The council's resolution read in full:

"It being understood that several applications have been made or will be made for the establishment of television broadcasting facilities in Dauphin and other points in northern Manitoba, be it resolved that the council of the town of Dauphin