

## Broadcasting

## AFTER RECESS

The viewers are always complaining that they get sick and tired of seeing the same characters: Charles Templeton, Pierre Berton, Lister Sinclair, Dr. Blatz, Nathan Cohen, Gordon Sinclair and so on, all very much Toronto oriented.

Well, it is one of my contentions, and I think it would be the contention of many other members in this house, that Toronto does not contain all the finest attributes, and is not the sole reservoir of talent. I would point out to the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McGee), who is laughing, that even the fact that some of us appear here as members of parliament is an indication that there is talent outside of Toronto. I would really like to see the committee give some consideration at first to this question of talent in relation to the 55 per cent rule and a bit of investigation as to why more of it is not combed out of, let us say, the brakes and the bushes of the country, and why so much of it is the same, all or nearly all from Toronto.

In the past the committee has been a lively one. I would hope that it will continue to be lively but in a bit more constructive way. I make my reservations because I see the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate is going to be a member of that committee. I can see where there will be storm and stress. Again I am trying to speculate as to who would be the ideal committee chairman.

**An hon. Member:** Will you be available?

**Mr. Fisher:** Yes, with pleasure; but I am thinking of the hon. member from Calgary South, who has proved himself so invaluable down at the United Nations. I am just hoping that he will almost preach for a call during this debate.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Perhaps you should elect the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate chairman, and then your fears would be over.

**Mr. Fisher:** That is a suggestion I would be only too willing to accept. I would like to see him in the role of chairman. I think that as an editor he has done a remarkable disservice to one of the great Liberal prime ministers of Canada, and if he can do as well in his role of chairman it would be intriguing to us, his rivals. I want to go on and suggest that the hon. member for Calgary South ought to come in and preach for the call. I am suggesting to him that he would make as competent a chairman of the broadcasting committee as he did of other committees.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

The house resumed at 2.30 p.m.

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased at this time to see that the government is again taking steps to set up a special committee on broadcasting. I am sure that all members of the house are well aware of the importance of this committee. In my view there are many very important aspects of the operations of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with which the committee undoubtedly will be dealing. Some of them are extensions of the services of the C.B.C., programming, private stations, Canadian content, the financial structure of the C.B.C. and many other subjects. As hon. members may have noticed, in mentioning these different subjects which I sincerely hope the committee will deal with I placed extension of services in the top position. Despite the fact that these other aspects of C.B.C. operations are of great importance, I believe personally that the extension of television services and the improvement of radio reception in some parts of Canada should be given top priority.

I have listened with interest to the remarks of various members who have spoken on the resolution before the house, and I wish to concur in particular with some of the remarks made, such as the statement that we must keep watch at all times to prevent political interference with the C.B.C. or any crown corporation. In this regard, however, I feel that the committee has special duties and functions to perform. I listened with interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher). He brought out some very good points and in relating his impression of what this committee should do he said, if I heard him correctly, that the committee should scrutinize but that it should not put itself in the position of influencing or directing in any way the operations of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

I cannot quite bring myself to agree wholeheartedly with that statement because in my view the committee can do a very worthwhile job after scrutinizing the operations of the C.B.C. by bringing in recommendations as to what the members of the committee believe should be done to improve the operations of this crown corporation. If those members who are fortunate enough to sit on this committee are merely to scrutinize the evidence presented to them and not suggest recommendations or give leadership as to what members of the house believe should be done, then I cannot see the point in a committee of this nature convening. Therefore