

*Interim Supply*

pioneering in this field certainly in this country, if not on the North American continent. It is perfectly proper for hon. members to stand in the house and say they believe that programs which contain interviews and discussions about things such as women's bosoms should not appear during the hours of t.v. programming when children are likely to be watching t.v. I agree that perhaps such programs should be directed toward adult audiences at a time after children have gone to bed. Those who are responsible for putting on these programs should exercise some judgment as to whether they are family programs or whether they should be viewed later in the evening when the children have gone to bed.

One of the amusing things about selling the C.B.C. is that I do not hear anyone say we should sell all of the C.B.C. They say we should sell that part in the large cities where the C.B.C. makes money. Let us look at what has happened in the major cities in which we have allowed a second television station. Did we really get a new type of program? Did we really accomplish very much by this except having the opportunity—and I am 100 per cent in favour of having the opportunity to choose between two or three stations—of choosing between stations? Have we really accomplished anything in a cultural sense as was indicated we would when the applications were made to the B.B.G.? We may have. Again, I may not be in a position to judge; I may not be trained to judge. When we talk of selling the C.B.C. should we not really consider the whole of the C.B.C. operation, rather than consider only those parts of it which are financial plums?

The B.B.G. was established several years ago to provide some control over the operations of the news media in Canada. I feel they have failed to do the job we expected they were going to be able to do. It may be that the board of broadcast governors act should be returned to parliament for amendment. It is quite possible we did not give them enough authority to be able to do the things we thought they were going to do. We know that they have been almost ineffective in policing the broadcasting services in Canada. This may be a field that should be referred to a committee on broadcasting.

This raises another question, Mr. Chairman. Why have we not referred the B.B.G. and the C.B.C., if that is our desire, to a committee of this house? Is this government

so ineffective they have not been able to decide for themselves what changes in policy they wish to make in this field, and for that reason have not been able to establish a committee? Is it because there are enough committees of this house and this is not an important matter? I feel the government has a responsibility to tell us why they have neglected to establish a committee on broadcasting. Then, the question of cable television could have been referred to this committee. I believe there are things that we could improve, and certainly there will always be things we could improve. The B.B.G. could give us the benefit of their experience in a broadcasting committee and make recommendations for the changes they wish made. This opportunity should be afforded. We should not be in a position of attacking them and saying they have not done a job unless they have an opportunity to appear and suggest the changes that should be made.

I should like to close by saying that I believe the C.B.C. has done a remarkable job. They have brought to Canadians over a widely scattered area television and radio programs that are a credit to the nation. It would be safe to say there is not anyone in this house who does not violently dislike some program on the C.B.C. I believe it is safe to say also that there are Canadians who have a particular program and they will go to a great deal of effort week after week to watch it closely. One of the members referred to the field of culture, and this applies to rural Canada. There are many farmers who will make an extreme effort to take advantage of the opportunity to watch certain programs because they are of value in their farming operations.

I think we should be very careful, Mr. Chairman, about blasting the C.B.C. because of a particular program. I am quite happy that those who are responsible in parliament for the C.B.C., not only in this government but in previous governments, have rejected the idea that members of parliament should be able to discontinue a program on the C.B.C. just because it is objectionable to them, personally. This matter should be decided by responsible people. If the C.B.C. is not doing the job, then we should collectively look at all the problems of the C.B.C. and make the changes that are necessary. Then, once we have made them, they should be enforced. If we start telling the C.B.C. what type of program to put on, what the content of the program should be and when it should be put