

Supply—C.B.C.

Mr. Martin: No, the old age security one stands, 278.

The Deputy Chairman: If the committee will permit me, I think I have the picture. Resolution No. 278 which is now before the committee and upon which the discussion of these other items has taken place, is to stand. The remaining resolutions under this department, except civil defence, are to be called now and passed.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Item 278 stands.

Items 279 and 280 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: May I point out to the committee that we have still before us items 278 and 281, and we are now calling resolution 54, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—

54. To provide for the requirements of the sound broadcasting service (to amount formerly authorized by Chap. 32, R.S.), \$6,250,000.

Mr. McCann: Some few days ago, Mr. Chairman, I tabled the annual report of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the year ending March 31, 1956. In the discussion of these estimates I thought it would be of advantage to the house to have that report before hon. members so they might have the operations of the C.B.C. reviewed up to that time. We all understand very well that there is presently in existence, and has been for some time, a commission known as the Fowler commission. Its terms of reference were to review the activities of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, both as to sound radio and television. I think under the circumstances, since that commission has not held all its sittings nor has it a report ready, but that report will be made some time before the next session of parliament, perhaps it might be only fair if we were to refrain from discussing many of the briefs and representations which have been made to the commission so far.

I propose at the beginning of this debate to give a short review with reference to the annual report for the year ended March, 1956, in order that we may have on *Hansard* a record of the activities of this organization. In its annual report the C.B.C. points out that the continued extension of television coverage and development of the national program service have put an increasingly heavy load on the corporation. The report estimates that for the year which ended last March 31, more than 2 million homes were equipped with television receivers and that television service had been brought within

the reach of 80 per cent of the population. By that date the English language service on 6 C.B.C. and 22 privately owned stations was available to 9 million English speaking people. The French service, on two C.B.C. and three private stations, has been available to some 4 million French speaking people.

The wide development both of programs and coverage in the course of the year meant that the rate of operation and expenditures was much higher at the end of the period than at the beginning. The report notes that seven new stations began operations in 1955-56. They were St. John's, Newfoundland; Jonquiere, Quebec; Ottawa; Wingham, Ontario; Barrie, Ontario; North Bay, Ontario; and Lethbridge, Alberta. This brought to 33, 8 C.B.C. and 25 privately owned, the number of television stations operating and affiliated with C.B.C. networks. At the same time, service to the 17 stations which began operation in 1954-55 was maintained for the first full year.

The C.B.C.'s national program service, amounting to between 40 and 45 hours per week in English and between 35 and 40 hours a week in French, was developed for distribution to areas served by C.B.C. stations and to other communities through the co-operation of privately owned affiliates. As of March, 1956, over 55 per cent of the English service and more than 85 per cent of the French was Canadian-produced. At the same time, the report says, the work of the sound broadcasting system was undiminished on the three radio networks, trans-Canada, French and dominion, which broadcast a combined total of 22,356 hours. Some indication of the success of these efforts revealed itself at the annual exhibition of radio and television at Columbus, Ohio, where the C.B.C. again won and shared more awards than any other network.

In television, the 25 privately owned affiliated stations operating at the end of the fiscal year were taking a large proportion of the national television program service. This meant that C.B.C. was making available to each of the English language stations about 100,000 feet of filmed programs each week, and 85,000 feet to the French language stations. The average cost of making these programs available to each private station is approximately \$100,000 per year, according to the estimate in the report.

In the realm of programming, C.B.C. reports that once again it was successful at the annual American exhibition of educational radio and television programs, where programs produced by the corporation won six first awards and five honourable mentions. The report also notes that a broadcast