

lawyers in Washington, D.C., who are attorneys specializing in broadcasting law, I can state specifically that Canadian signals are treated in exactly the same way as U.S. signals, with no exception anywhere in the United States. By this I mean that, instead of calling a signal either a domestic or a foreign signal, the designation is either a local or a distant signal. Because Canadian signals are not located in a U.S. city, they are designated as distant signals, but they receive the same treatment as distant U.S. signals.

If I were a U.S. border station, all I could ask of the Canadian government in terms of taxes, and of the Canadian cable system in terms of carrying my signal, would be that they do exactly the same to me as their U.S. counterparts do to Canadian signals. It is that simple. CAB should have no complaint whatsoever about the way in which Canadian signals are handled in the United States.

This is the time for sober thought. Our integrity and good sense are at stake. Let us accept the amendment to this section and not "grandfather" anyone into any situation, but merely permit negotiations in such a way that if the negotiated settlement is better for Canada than the punitive effects of Bill C-58, Canada is not precluded from accepting the negotiated settlement. I am not asking that we, as members of the House, make a judgment. All we are asking is the right to be heard. Having heard us, the Minister of Communications will be in a position to grasp the situation, with the help of her parliamentary secretary who has been following the debate closely, following which I am sure we will be able to decide what is rational and right for both Canada, the U.S. and our corporate citizens.

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to rise once again in the House and speak in support of an amendment which I think deserves the consideration of hon. members opposite. Apparently up to the present they have not paid attention to what has been said on this side of the House. I think it is a great misfortune that the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt) was not here today to hear the comments of the hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Douglas). I am sure she would have straightened him out, because he is looking inward rather than outward. I am also sorry that he is not here this afternoon to hear what we have to say, because in my opinion he made a hit-and-run speech.

The issue at stake in Bill C-58 goes beyond one television station or even three or four television stations. What we are actually talking about here is communication. One of the misfortunes of people in this world is that they allow communications to break down. I am sure you would agree with me, Mr. Speaker, that many of the problems that families have are caused by a breakdown in communications. This is what happens when people stop speaking with each other. The same is true with regard to families within communities, with regard to regions within Canada and even with regard to nations. The minute they stop communicating with each other, trouble commences.

● (1450)

Therefore, I am deeply concerned about what we in Canada are doing as we unilaterally make decisions which only serve as confrontations with our neighbour to the

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south. Let me impress upon the House that if the crunch ever comes, the United States will be our last resort for help because of the fact that we share this continent together. What is good for one part of the country certainly has to be good for the other, and if it is good for the regions of the country, it is good for the people who live in those regions. For the last several years I have been concerned about the way Canada has treated the United States. I could relate several instances where we have backhanded the United States and they, being the older and bigger brother, have taken it and said nothing.

I am as pro-Canadian as anyone living in Canada. Some of our families are now fifth, sixth and seventh generation Canadian, and many of our ancestors came to this country from the United States. So from anything I may say it should not be inferred that I am anything but pro-Canadian. However, I am firmly of the opinion that I can be a stronger Canadian if my country grows in conjunction with the United States.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Towers: We have much to lose because we are much smaller than the United States. We have discussed the probability of bringing down a trunk line for the movement of gas and oil from the northern part of the continent, and the reason we are having problems in negotiating such an agreement is that the United States has now come to the point where it can no longer trust Canada and Canadians. It is not sure where it stands. We must realize that the United States is the only country in the world upon which we border. It is north of us and south of us. Therefore, we must consider the fact that the United States is our neighbour, and a good neighbour. However, I am sure the American people are human, and if we continue to backhand them, as we seem to be doing with all the legislation we are passing, petty or otherwise, eventually they will say that that is enough and then we will suffer the consequences.

With regard to television stations, I think this is a small thing. I am sure the dollars which would be saved by Canada would be few in the over-all picture. The hon. member for Bruce-Grey was too close to the trees to see the forest when he spoke this morning. If you want to grow big and strong, you cannot do that at the expense of your neighbour. You can only do that if your neighbour does it with you. I feel very strongly that we must give greater consideration to our friends south of the border in order to have a proper means of communication between the two countries, and not to build a great deal of ill-will, animosity and misunderstanding.

There has been a difference of opinion over the past two years with regard to our beef industry. This matter is very close to us in western Canada. It is as close to us as television is to those in southern British Columbia. A problem developed because we allowed the communication system to break down. I would be very happy if the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) or the cabinet would give some hon. members opposite who are really interested in the negotiation of an equitable deal with the United States a means of trading and understanding which will be to the benefit of all of us.