

*Canadian Policy on Broadcasting*

The great problem of Canadian solidarity is based precisely on the existence of a sound barrier. In some regions of Canada, French consonances seem as strange as Hebrew or Arab consonances and this gives rise to frustrations and often to deplorable acts of extremism. It would be quite interesting, especially for the younger generation of English speaking Canadians who are unusually open-minded, to recognize more and more that the French fact is valuable for Canada and helps us precisely to distinguish ourselves from Americans and to check growing Americanism.

In school, youngsters are given some notions and rudiments of French and after leaving school, they have no opportunity to improve their knowledge. That is the reason why I should like, with the same emphasis, ask the hon. minister to act promptly, in order to establish everywhere, in Canada, relay stations of the French network, which would cost very little.

The clause becomes a matter for concern where it says: "as public funds become available".

Mr. Chairman, public funds are available. Just a little inquiry would suffice to reveal the extravagances of the C.B.C. For instance, and without indulging in personalities, when a Quebec interviewer is sent to Paris, on an expense account, to interview a French personality, while the C.B.C. representative in Paris is asked to cross the ocean to come to Canada and interview a Canadian personality, I say that is the type of abuse you find in the C.B.C. and which explains that funds are not available.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Would the hon. member allow me to ask him a question? Could he tell us the name of the person sent to Europe to interview a famous Frenchman when we already had one interviewer in Europe?

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, I have already mentioned his name once. Mr. Lévesque was asked to go to Paris to interview Mr. Pompidou, although one of our most brilliant radio and television interviewers was already there at that time. The hon. member for Lapointe was in Paris recently, where he met Pierre Nadeau, one of our most brilliant announcers and most dynamic commentators. He is the Paris correspondent. However, the C.B.C. paid René Lévesque to go to Paris in order to interview Mr. Pompidou. That was a considerable and unjustified expenditure.

That is why there is no money to build relay stations in order to promote the French language in Canada. The only way to solve the problem of Canadian solidarity is to make the French fact a part of the Canadian heritage. If the French fact is not a Canadian heritage, it is because in certain areas of the country, due to the weaknesses I pointed out, due to the absence of relay station which would enable the diffusion and the propagation of the French language in the country, there are areas of the country where French is just as foreign as Hebrew, Arab or Japanese. That is the major obstacle to Canadian solidarity. So, I appeal most urgently to the minister, so that relay stations may be built. It would cost less than the Laurendeau-Dunton commission and would also allow French to spread throughout the country without extravagant expenditure such as were noted at the C.B.C.

That is the suggestion I humbly make to the minister.

[English]

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief. I have been occupied with other matters and not able to listen to much of the debate this afternoon. However, regardless of the differences of opinion I think it is quite correct to say that the C.B.C. is an institution which, generally speaking, Canadians are proud of, even though it has made its mistakes and blunders.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that some hon. members brought to the attention of the minister certain matters that should be given consideration when everything is running smoothly again. I wish to bring to the minister's attention the fact that there have been numerous complaints from the Rossland and Trail area about timing of programs. Programs are received from Calgary instead of from Vancouver, and this causes certain inconvenience. Some interesting programs are not even received at all.

There have been numerous complaints from organizations and individuals in this regard, Mr. Chairman. I know Dr. Caple from Vancouver has visited the district, but apparently there is a technical problem which has not yet been solved. I urge that the C.B.C. do everything possible in the future to make certain that in the Kootenays, particularly in west Kootenay, programs are received from Vancouver for the same length of time as they are being transmitted over the station in Vancouver.