

constitute an Executive Committee empowered to deal with matters delegated to it by legislation or by the full Board.

Your Committee has not heard specific views on the point as to whether the reasons for decisions of the BBG should be made public at the request of interested parties. We suggest, however, that this point be considered when legislation is being drafted.

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(White Paper)

5. The Structure of the Broadcasting System

In ordinary circumstances, the Board of Broadcast Governors will have the unqualified right, subject to technical certification by the Department of Transport, to select one from a number of applicants for a broadcasting licence, and to issue and renew licences on a basis of merit. But, as noted, authority will rest with the Governor in Council to give formal directions to the Board on the overall pattern of coverage to be followed; on the reservation of particular channels and frequencies for the use of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; on the assignment of particular channels and frequencies for special purposes; on the eligibility of certain classes of applicants for licences; and on the pre-emption of broadcast time for special purposes or in an emergency.

All Canadians are entitled, subject only to practical considerations in the expenditure of public funds, to service in the Canadian official language that they habitually use. The Government intends to give the highest possible priority to the extension of radio and television coverage on this basis. Parliament will be asked to provide funds so that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation can complete coverage, to the fullest extent that is feasible, with all possible speed.

The time has also come to consider full national network services in both official languages from coast to coast, and a detailed study of all aspects of this question will be undertaken forthwith.

Although prime coverage must have first priority, alternative television service is an amenity now regarded almost as a necessity of life, which is already available to some 75-80% of Canadian television households. The Government has advised the Board of Broadcast Governors that, pending the enactment of new legislation, it is now prepared to consider issuing second-station television licences on the recommendation of the Board, subject to the reservation for the use of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation of channels in Victoria, B.C.; Saskatoon, Sask.; Sudbury, Ont.; and the Saint John-Fredericton area in New Brunswick. The provision of television service by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in these reserved locations will be inaugurated, by means of repeater stations at first, as funds permit. The effect of this decision will be to permit the Board to consider applications by private affiliates of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation who may wish to disaffiliate and join the CTV network.

In recommending the issue of a second-station licence before the enactment of new legislation, the Board of Broadcast Governors will be required to satisfy the Government that the advertising revenue of a new station will be adequate to support a proper level of public-service programming.

The Committee concurs with the statement on structure appearing in the White Paper, particularly with reference to extending coverage to all Canadians, and to full network services in both official languages. We recommend further that, whenever practical, in areas now receiving only one Canadian service, if the service is through a private outlet, the alternative should be provided by CBC. If CBC is now the sole service, the second service should be private. Where there are serious obstacles to such parallel development, however, these should not prohibit the extension of alternate service by other means, at least on a temporary basis. We urge that the introduction of dual service proceed as rapidly as CBC finances and local market conditions permit.

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(White Paper)

6. New Television Channels

The television channels now in regular use in Canada all lie within what is known as the very-high-frequency band (VHF). The number of these channels is limited, and most have already been assigned. Those that remain are too few to meet current