

*The Address—Mr. Corbin*

ordinary Canadians and we often pride ourselves on living in the "Republic of Madawaska", without pretending however to an international mission or role. We have very cordial relations with the Americans of the state of Maine. On the other hand, a high percentage of our people comes from the province of Quebec, and we are fortunate to maintain excellent relations with these neighbours as well.

One factor which contributes greatly to a Canadian-American rapprochement in the "land of Madawaska" is, besides three international bridges, a ubiquitous American television station with its network of retransmitting stations, broadcasting its programs from the other shore of the St. John river. We are lucky to be able to enjoy that service and it often happens, however paradoxical it may seem, that my fellow-citizens are better informed of events taking place in Portland or in Washington than of those occurring in the national or in the provincial capital.

Such a condition can be explained by a lack of a reliable service provided by a far-reaching French-Canadian television station. There is a good national English network service. We are not complaining about that. But in a constituency where 80 per cent of the population is of French origin and culture and is French-speaking, we must admit that we are far from being satisfied with the French television service at the present time.

There would be several possible solutions, but I will not bother you with that to-day.

What must be well understood in the first place is that the French language television services in Madawaska-Victoria and in New Brunswick are generally inadequate, if not downright disappointing. Considering the justifiable complaints received for more than 12 years from the French population all over New Brunswick, we shall soon have to find a solution acceptable to the majority. Perhaps it will not surprise you either, Mr. Speaker, to hear that in New Brunswick an ever growing number of English-speaking citizens would really like to enjoy the French culture and the French language. In fact as far as the citizens of New Brunswick are concerned, I believe this would give a real boost to national unity.

Hearings by the Canadian Radio Television Council are to be held soon on that point in Moncton and we trust that a remedy to this situation will at last be found.

With regard to present modes of communication between Madawaska-Victoria and the

rest of Canada, one must say that the situation has not evolved very much since 1867 compared with the rest of the country. The railroad remains the best mode of transport between Edmundston and Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Halifax. There is a total lack of air transport. Still, we look more and more to this mode of transport to alleviate our isolation.

On the other hand, the planned corridor road to the neighbouring state of Maine, between the south of New Brunswick and the eastern townships in Quebec, would not likely help our regional economy. The individuals or groups supporting the construction of this route are in earnest about the success of this project, but I oppose it with all my might and I am convinced that my colleague for Temiscouata (Mr. Gendron) agrees wholeheartedly with me in this regard. The so-called Maine corridor-route would indeed be detrimental to the economy of Madawaska-Victoria, to that of northern New Brunswick, of Temiscouata, and all the people settled along the traditional line of communication between the Maritimes and the heart of Canada would be harmed. If there is a transportation problem in the Maritimes, and we all agree there is, it should be worked out through a Canadian solution.

• (12:30 p.m.)

[English]

I wish to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to represent the Indians of my riding. There are two Indian bands in Madawaska-Victoria. The largest, and perhaps the most progressive of all the Indian communities in the maritimes, is located at Tobique; a much smaller band of Maliseets is located near my home in Edmundston. It had been my intention to talk about some of the very real problems affecting the social evolution of the Indians of New Brunswick, but these problems are not specific to our area. Furthermore, since the seconder of the address, the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand), is himself privileged to be a descendant of Canada's first citizens, and the first Canadian Indian to sit in this house, I feel he is most qualified to speak on the subject and I have no hesitation in declaring that the Indians of Canada will have a strong voice to speak on their behalf.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I welcome with a great deal of satisfaction and a deep gratitude, the proposed reform of the Official Languages of