

Mr. Fairweather: Yes.

The Chairman: They are a pretty knowledgeable group of people, though.

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, they are.

Mr. Leboe: Mr. Chairman, that would not affect us, would it, any more than this? After all, a cable set-up is nothing more than a very, very large receiving set which is connected by wires and each person has a contract with the individual who supplies the signal. It is not available to the general public as it would be, for instance, if you set up your aerial and picked it out of the air in any room of the house or out on the lawn, or any place. This is under separate contract from one big receiving set, which is actually the cable set-up. I think they would both mean the same thing.

Miss LaMarsh: No, this is a different definition and it was prepared by a study group that was concerned about it. I am glad to be reminded where it came from. We discussed this. It came in rather late, as a matter of fact, in the process of drafting and I certainly will go back and discuss it with my officials and perhaps have one of the technical people speak to it later.

Mr. Fairweather: I do not know what process we should go through. I also have—and this may help the people—a report on The History of Broadcasting Regulations in Canada by Douglas McDonald. I do not have the remotest idea what his feelings are vis-à-vis public broadcasting or private broadcasting but his study is available. He is presently in Calgary and he feels strongly that the definition proposed in Bill C-163 would not include cablecasting, or whatever the newest word for this phenomenon is. Are these things helpful to you?

Miss LaMarsh: Oh, very.

Mr. Fairweather: They are not written in any sense of partisanship, they just happened to get down.....

Miss LaMarsh: They are very helpful.

Mr. Fairweather: I got hold of a copy of his thesis and liked it, and now I am invaded with a flood of good advice.

• (4:25 p.m.)

Miss LaMarsh: It is obviously to our advantage to do everything we can to make the legislation as comprehensive as far as we

can see. We do not know if this kind of broadcasting is viable beyond, certainly, some five or six years. You may have to tear up this act in another ten years as being no longer fitting with the technology of the day. I do not know.

Mr. Fairweather: I will give the letter to the Clerk and your experts can tear it apart and then we can perhaps have the benefit of their advice.

Miss LaMarsh: Thank you.

Mr. Fairweather: Perhaps it would be helpful if the Committee had copies of it.

Mr. Leboe: I wish to apologize Mr. Chairman, but I would like to ask this question. Are we presuming that this broadcasting authority should have authority over cable? Are we assuming this?

The Chairman: Perhaps the Minister would like to address herself to that subject.

Mr. Leboe: From the discussion I gathered that we were almost assuming that this was the object of this Committee.

Miss LaMarsh: It was in the draft bill. That is the proposal that is before the Committee.

The Chairman: It is with the Committee's recommendation. The White Paper proposed the Committee recommend it and the Bill includes jurisdiction in the regulatory authority over community antenna television systems.

Mr. Leboe: I think we should sound a warning that the Bell Telephone people tell us that very shortly we will have the same type of thing in our front room, as far as talking to somebody across the country is concerned. Their picture will appear on the telephone screen in front of us when we dial the number and they will see us and we will see them.

Mr. Jamieson: But that is not direct reception by the general public.

Mr. Leboe: Well, neither would it be if I have a contract with somebody who has a cable television set-up. That is not the general public either.

The Chairman: Perhaps the Minister would like to briefly outline the intent of this Bill with respect to community antenna