

How can I give you free access to the means of communication and the opportunity of free expression if I am going to be held responsible in one way or another for what you say? The pressure on us as cablecasters to be in control of what is said makes it more difficult to achieve the goal of genuine public participation. I am not a lawyer but I would hope that legislation could be developed to give the cable caster reasonable protection.

In my brief I went on to anticipate some of the developments that are likely to occur in cable television in the 1970's, such as:

- ability to carry 27 or more channels
- optional services on a channel-by-channel basis
- rental of cable channels to others on either a part-time or full-time basis
- cable advertising
- programming networks for cable television
- point-to-point and limited network services
- facsimile information services for the home including newspapers, magazines, possibly delivery of mail, access to library books, shopping information, and so on.

The future possibilities for cable are exciting indeed.

Let me turn to some of the issues raised by the developments of the past several weeks. I would like to begin by referring to the Broadcasting Act which places certain responsibilities and constraints on cable systems, on broadcasters and, for that matter, on the CRTC.

It says that broadcasting undertakings in Canada including cable "constitute a single system". While it gives some priority to the national broadcasting service—that is, the CBC—it otherwise treats cable systems and broadcasting transmitting undertakings with equal importance.

It says that "the right of persons to receive programs, subject only to generally applicable statutes and regulations, is unquestioned". I believe that this is especially pertinent to cable television.

It says that the programming provided by the Canadian broadcasting system including cable should be "varied and comprehensive". This, of course, is why cable television exists.

It says that broadcasting transmitting undertakings—that is radio or TV stations—should provide programming that uses "predominantly Canadian creative and other resources". It does not place a similar requirement on cable systems nor should it in my opinion. I would, however, expect that cable systems would in their local programming use Canadian resources as a matter of course.

It singles out the national broadcasting service—that is, the CBC—and says that it should contribute to the development of national unity and provide for a continuing expression of Canadian identity. It does not place a similar requirement on cable systems although cable systems are making a worthy contribution—through their local programming and their showing of National Film Board films, for instance.

As we look to the future I would also anticipate development of Canadian networks that would again facilitate this Canadian flow of information.

It is in relation to this Act that, for the time being at least, we must view the role of cable television. My personal feelings—and I don't think they are inconsistent with the Act—are as follows:

Cable television's most basic and most valuable role lies in providing a "varied and comprehensive" selection of television viewing choices, in fulfilling "the right of persons to receive programs". This role is fully supported by the Act.

At the same time, I would agree that we may, in certain cases, have to allow for a trade-off between objectives. For example, where cable television might seriously injure an existing service the benefits of each would have to be weighed. Here, however, I believe that the onus of proof should be on the objector. I am afraid that some broadcasters have been using cable as a "red herring".

I will just digress at this point and give you an example of the kind of thing I mean. There was a report carried in the *Globe and Mail* on Tuesday April 21st in Blaik Kirby's television column, reporting on the CRTC hearings and CTV's presentation to those hearings and it said in this report:

"The spread of cable tv has already begun to weaken Canadian stations hold on the audience both in Toronto and Vancouver. According to CTV it has slipped since 1968 from 69 per cent to 59