

The Budget—Mr. Nesbitt

to comments on the provincial elections at present being held in Prince Edward Island and Quebec. Nobody by the greatest stretch of the imagination could call these programs that come on at eight o'clock in the morning under the heading of news and "Preview Commentary", and deal with so-called free interpretation of the news, anything but outright propaganda. These trends in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are particularly ominous, Mr. Speaker, because the CBC has a long and odious record of expertise in propaganda, distortion and outright lying in the so-called news and public affairs programs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Don't be so kind.

Mr. Nesbitt: I am just listening to my friends on my left. They used to have a proprietary right in that organization, almost.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nesbitt: As they say, Mr. Speaker, those were the days. But things are changing.

An hon. Member: At least we were intelligent.

Mr. Nesbitt: My hon. friend from Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) is making some remarks behind me. We used to hear the "independent" views of Michael Oliver, a professor of political science at McGill. Finally, even after he was made president of the NDP, it turned out that he was still being described as a nice little professor of political science. I wonder what would have been said from that quarter if the president of the Liberal Association or the Conservative Association had appeared in a similar capacity.

In any event, may I briefly now refer to a speech by a very eminent man who was a member of this House and a former parliamentary secretary to a Prime Minister of Canada. I am speaking of the former hon. member for Leeds, Mr. John Matheson, who now is an eminent judge. Mr. Matheson made a speech to the Canadian Club at Winnipeg on Thursday, December 8, 1966. He spoke about the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. May I quote one or two excerpts from that speech. He was talking about CBC program and had this to say:

A series of programs seemingly calculated to rake the French-English issue, included six interviews on the subject with four separatists and two English speaking Quebecers, reacting with emotion. In addition some 12 French Canadians were hot-seated, pilloried, mocked or their comments distorted.

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

These, of course, were the days probably when Mr. René Lévesque, that great advocate of Canadian unity, was one of the leading spokesmen on the French network of the CBC. Despite complaints, he kept appearing just the same as a purveyor of the idea of national unity. On page 6 of Mr. Matheson's speech the subject of drugs is dealt with. Incidentally, because of the position he occupied Mr. Matheson had plenty of opportunity to have his remarks well documented and researched. I find them very helpful. This is what he said about the question of drugs:

Two major programs stressed the delights of drug taking, glue sniffing and LSD, without adequately portraying the serious dangers.

Some 80 items touched on American subjects or on the U.S.A. itself. 62 were either overtly anti-American or played on U.S. problem and ills. 16 items dealt with the Viet Nam war.

And so on. Lower down on the same page Mr. Matheson had this to say about programs on communism:

On 14 programs communism was given sympathetic treatment. Not once in two years was there any substantial criticism of a communist country or of communist philosophy.

An hon. Member: What about the communist conspiracy?

Mr. Nesbitt: That's right. Just wait; I have a few more comments to make. I cannot help hearing the remarks of my friends on my left. I ask any of them to provide me with one bit of information by which they can show me that the foreign policy of the CCF or NDP at any time has varied one iota from that of the Kremlin.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nesbitt: Another matter raised on page 7 of Mr. Matheson's speech is the following:

An estimated 69 items dealt with government institutions, parties or personalities—10 only from a favourable viewpoint. 48 were critical, undercutting institutions of government and/or satirically critical of members of the Liberal, Conservative, Social Credit and Creditiste parties.

An hon. Member: Hooray!

Mr. Nesbitt: Having read these remarks, may I now refer to another little item—I must watch my time, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: We're watching you.

Mr. Nesbitt: May I now deal with a little matter that relates to the credentials of spokesmen of the CBC, because I submit that