

Government leadership is very much required in respect of communications services in this country. If we are to have a viable country in which one part feels as much a part of Canada as another, it seems to me that the institution of services across the country should be the result of government policy and there should be a mechanism or a provision within the bill by which the government can, in fact, give direction that certain services must be provided to certain areas.

This leads me to a rather parochial observation, if I may be permitted to make it at this time. I refer to the services that have been provided over the years in that great province of Saskatchewan. It seems to me that the CRTC in the past has misinterpreted its jurisdiction in respect of broadcasting. It is apparent that the CRTC understands that its responsibility in respect of broadcasting relates to the area 50 miles north of the United States border. The fact of the matter is that in some of the major centres in the province of Saskatchewan there has only recently been the development of a second television station, and I suggest that the size of these cities, with their reasonably large populations, would demand cablevision service.

Mr. Speaker, I see that you are about to rise because it is almost five o'clock, so I will take the opportunity of calling it five o'clock now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Unless the hon. member seeks the unanimous consent of the House to carry on for a few minutes, I must call it five o'clock. With the unanimous consent of the House, I will not see the clock for a few moments.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Perhaps I might ask that Your Honour does not see the clock, in the hope that we might be able to deal with the bill.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Realizing the attention I have received, and the importance of this matter, I appreciate the indulgence of the House in allowing me an extra couple of minutes to bring these things to the minister's attention. If the minister intends to reply, I hope he will elucidate a little in respect of the apparent lack of a provision in the bill which would allow the government and parliament to give directions regarding broadcasting policy.

● (1700)

I understand the basic principle involved and that in the area of broadcasting the government would be very leery in this respect, but I do not think a responsible body or government would abuse that particular prerogative. I think on occasion, however, the government must be in a position where it has the ability to issue directives to a body such as the CRTC. It should have the power to say, if it should be considered a matter of national interest, that service shall be provided to a certain area. If the government, for example, should decide that there should be cable service in Saskatoon, which I believe to be of great national importance, it should be in a position to deal with that matter.

I merely wished to make these few observations in respect of this bill. I hope the minister will have an

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opportunity to address himself to some of the matters raised by hon. members.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the motion carry?

An hon. Member: On division.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I think there would be agreement to take motion No. 35 standing in the name of the hon. member for Brandon-Souris.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it also agreed that the motions preceding this one shall retain their position on the order paper?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTION POLICY BE ADOPTED TO REINSTATE CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSONS INTO THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that an essential part of any social security policy is a program of adequate care, compassion and opportunity for Canada's disabled, the government should give urgent consideration to initiating, in co-operation with the provincial governments, and voluntary groups, specific programs for chronically sick and severely disabled Canadians including (a) mandatory building standards designed to provide easy access to public buildings, schools and universities (b) special housing facilities and adequate educational vocational and employment guidance service and opportunity, making it possible for the disabled person to be creatively employed to the degree that his/her handicap permits (c) the provision of technical and electronic equipment so that handicapped persons might be released from helpless dependency by controlling their immediate environment (heat, light, radio, telephone, TV, typewriter, tape recorder, etc) (d) income maintenance sufficient to enable the disabled person to enjoy a reasonable standard of living (e) the general coordination of policies and programs designed to aid this group i.e., policies that combine the ingredients of a sound rehabilitation program, the medical, social, vocational and educational aspects, in a positive approach that will enable large numbers to be released from static expensive institutional care to a creative life in the family and community.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the debate on this motion is a continuation of a debate which took place in this House on