

The Address—Mr. Pugh

be cut off, when throughout the rest of Canada 50 per cent of Canadian citizens can turn their dials and pick up United States programs.

For instance, in the case of Victoria I understand there are 11 wave lengths, 11 channels, available. I do not know about Windsor and I do not know how many they can pick up in Niagara Falls, the Toronto area or the London area. But in Vancouver, New Westminster, all these places, all they have to do is turn the dial and they pick up these stations, and if they care to look at some United States programs what are you going to say? Are you going to say "We are going to have a big brother going around and saying you have too much contact with U.S. stations"?

What does the government expect to do about these things? What does it expect the board of broadcast governors to come up with? Is it licensing? Cable television is already subject to full control under the Department of Transport, and the nature and extent of this control is such that cable television cannot in fact join various systems together by a microwave network. They are not allowed to do their own programming. They are not allowed to do any advertising. Therefore I keep wondering what the government wants to do. Does it want to have a Canadian content on this thing? If so, it will just wipe out the whole cable T.V. industry, because it is individual choice which decides what you are going to take in over their system.

I see it is getting close to one o'clock, and in the few minutes before the recess I should like to finish my remarks by making a suggestion to this government right now. They have gone part way by a directive extending the time for those who have applied for a licence, which gives nine months to December 31, or the time they get their licences. I suggest that the applications go ahead as usual pending the inquiry, in other words that they rescind this rather stupid directive they put out. They put it on and I think they should take it off, and they could do that legally. With regard to cable television, I would say there is no suggestion of carrying a United States station where a Canadian station is available to that cable television proprietor. This would give the content, which may be the reason behind all this fafoo that has gone on.

Let me reiterate that this is just one more bureaucratic measure flung at the people of Canada before the matter was thought through to its end. It has produced tremendous discrimination. It has produced a tremendous feeling against this government. It is not the first time, incidentally, as I pointed out in my

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speech; but this feeling, I think in all fairness I should point out to the Liberal party, is deep. It is deep enough for me to have received over 200 individual, long letters, some of them signed by as many as 50 names. I have probably 1,000 cable television cards which have come in as well. If that is a measure of the feeling all these people have, I suggest that the Liberal government should take the suggestions and the pleas which I have put to them now and immediately make them effective.

Mr. Prittie: Before you call it one o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might be allowed to say this. I see that the Minister of Fisheries is in the house. I propose to speak on the subject of his department this afternoon, and if his timetable permits I would appreciate it if either he or his parliamentary secretary might be here.

Mr. Robichaud: This being Monday the Minister of Fisheries will be in the house all day.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join those who have preceded me in this debate and congratulate the mover and seconder for their contributions. Their speeches contained a minimum of the fulsome praise of the government expected on these occasions, and in both speeches I thought there was something worth while.

I should like to comment on one item from each of their speeches. The hon. member for Longueuil had some well thought out words to say on the subject of national unity. This speech might be interpreted as a typical good will or *bonne entente* speech, but I suggest that the approach he takes is a sound one and is the only approach that is going to work if we are to have any type of harmony at all in this country.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard dealt with a subject that interests me very much, that of federal-provincial relations, and he expressed concern about the position of the federal government in the current controversy. I should like to quote briefly from his speech of February 19 as reported at page 24 of *Hansard*. He said this:

It disturbs me that an attitude seems to be growing that the government of Canada and the parliament of Canada should be nothing more than a clearing house for the collection and disbursement