

*Adjournment Debate*

I am moving into my final series of proposals. I think I have said enough to make my point. Instead of just condemning this silly business, this roaring farce of sending out top hired man to go over and deal with these nickels, dimes and pennies, would it not have been better if the government years ago had started a program of doing these things that should have been done to meet the new realities? I originally made these proposals in this House in October, 1964, 14 years ago. I repeated that speech any number of times, trying to get people to pay attention to what was needed. All we had was this flim-flam, this posturing and pretending, running around and exposing themselves like a baboon. And everyone knows the part of the baboon that is being exposed. I am simply saying the wasted time that I have seen in the last 15 years should have been used to get away from this silly, obsolete question of tariffs and to get at these policy proposals that could have put Canada back into the trading picture of the world on a positive rather than negative basis.

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, it is so close to ten o'clock that rather than say a few sentences may I call it ten o'clock?

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

*[Translation]*

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SERVICE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday, on May 12, in the absence of the Secretary of State, I asked the Minister of Communications to bring to the attention of her cabinet colleagues a recent decision by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to limit its accelerated coverage plan to communities with at least 500 people speaking an official minority language, based on the 1971 and 1976 census figures. Several communities which consequently expected to eventually get either French or English television have now been set aside.

I feel this is an urgent matter, and since it is not possible during the question period to set forth all the facts relating to a problem like this, and although it is not possible for the minister to answer adequately on behalf of the CBC, nevertheless it seems important to me to deal with the problem directly by exposing it to the full light of day. The essence of the information I have in the form of letters received from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation last week is contained in the following paragraph, and I quote:

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain).]

Indeed, it is with regret that we had to cut from the accelerated coverage plan certain projects in communities where the French-speaking population—

—and that is the situation I am concerned about—

—proved too small considering the costs of implementation. They had been included in the preparatory and implementing phase of the plan.

... the most recent mother tongue statistics have forced the corporation to abandon those projects in view of the inability of complying with the standard of 500 people. You may rest assured that the research department, at the request of the planning department, made every effort to analyze thoroughly the data of the 1971 and 1976 censuses before arriving at that conclusion.

Last Friday I said that decision was unfair, and I urged that cabinet convince the CBC to reverse its decision so as to stem the appalling tide of assimilation. It is obvious that the absence of French schools, government services in the everyday language, legal services, a press service and what not, are powerful sources of assimilation. The fact still remains that the absence of radio and particularly television irremediably condemns the French-speaking community to assimilation in many areas of this country.

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Can we and should we as the CBC did put a price tag on staffing those services? When one realizes that the accelerated coverage plan itself was implemented a little late in this struggle for the survival of minorities, it seems to me that we should step up our efforts instead of reducing them. By any chance, would the CBC decision reflect the statements made by the present premier of Quebec who said that minorities are a lost cause anyway? Is that what the CBC mean? I would not be surprised when I consider what we have obtained so far in my province of New Brunswick, but with so many efforts, so much hardship and struggle.

At the risk of scandalizing or even offending those persons who think they have done a lot for the minorities, I will say that it is not enough and that it is high time to do more. I repeat what I have said on several occasions, namely that because of a lack of a television service in the French language among other things, the rate of assimilation of minorities is going up an accelerated pace. The home, the family is not only the cradle of culture, it is also often the last stronghold against assimilation and the recent CBC decision condemns dozens if not hundreds of small communities to surrender. The terms of reference of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are to consolidate national unity and it is generally agreed that under the mandate with which it was entrusted by the Parliament of Canada, it also has obligations vis-à-vis communities speaking one of the official languages and that is what is important.

I regret this decision of the CBC which is pushing the most fragile, vulnerable and needy minorities toward extinction. How many will be forgotten, forsaken and sacrificed following this decision? We need to know the true figures, Mr. Speaker. We need to know the operating costs which the CBC has given us an excuse to refuse this service. As far as the accelerated