

*Television*

we have three weekly newspapers in the area and two daily newspapers in one of the towns. There are not too many towns or cities in western Canada that have two daily newspapers. Although these two dailies are not very large, each and every day they bring to the attention of the people the views and happenings in and around Flin Flon. Not a day goes by but that one sees in either the daily or weekly papers reference to the interest of the people in the district in acquiring television service. This has been the case for the last 16 or 18 months.

One representative headline reads:

The television picture for Flin Flon is far from clear at present.

In a recent issue of the newspaper published in The Pas, Manitoba, the entire editorial section on the second page was devoted exclusively to the subject of television. This particular one deals with the ill-fated test of low-power relay in the area. It says:

It seems that regardless of the outcome of the tests, the final answer to television or no television will rest with the C.B.C.

This is so in the case of the people at The Pas and Flin Flon and it may well also be so in the case of Dauphin. Even if the C.B.C. does agree to do something, when will it happen? All of the newspapers are much the same. Each and every one of them has television as one of its main interests. I hold in my hand a newspaper which has a reference to T.V. tests on the front page, and again they are referring to those low-power relay tests which were recently carried out in Manitoba. A great many people were discouraged because they thought that television was possibly coming into the area. Therefore, hon. members can appreciate their feeling when they learned that it was a failure. Every one of the papers that I pick up, Mr. Speaker, has television all over the front page. Another one says in a headline that Brandon is interested in putting television into northern Manitoba. Across the page it says, "Yorkton also has a Plan"; that is, a plan for putting television into northern Manitoba. Part of an editorial in the *Northern Mail* says:

The outcome is like the attitude that has up to now been expressed over T.V.

They were referring to the royal tour of next year. We hoped that Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip would be coming to northern Manitoba. All of the papers deal with the matter in the same way.

I have many more papers here. Each and every one of them talks about television. I have numerous petitions. I notice that when petitions have been sent to Ottawa recently in regard to other representations we see a great many pictures of them in the paper and one

[Mr. Simpson.]

thing and another. These are only a few that have come to my office during the last few days. There are hundreds and hundreds of names on them. However, most of them have been sent directly to the C.B.C. itself. These have come to me and the people are asking me to turn them over to the C.B.C. for consideration.

I might also say, that I have resolutions asking for television passed by the Flin Flon town council, the Flin Flon chamber of commerce, the Swan River chamber of commerce, The Pas chamber of commerce, The Pas town council, the village of Bowsman, Bowsman chamber of commerce, the village of Minitonas, and many others. All through the area, Mr. Speaker, those people are spending a great deal of their time and effort to convince the C.B.C. that television is very much desired in that area.

I should also like to point out that there are other reasons why those people should be given consideration. Throughout the years the people of the populated parts of Canada have expected other people to go into the north and pioneer, and that has been done. Many of the people in this area are the original pioneers, or the descendants of the original pioneers, in that area and they are getting to the stage now where they feel that some of the amenities of life which are lacking in the area should be given to them as quickly as possible. I think that television in northern Manitoba ties in with the northern development plan. If we are to keep skilled key workers in industry in the north we must give them every consideration. I know of many families that have left our area simply because there is no television for them and their families. Many of them have used that as their main reason for leaving. If we are to develop the north then we must give every consideration we can to the provision of television for the people.

Many of the people in my area know what the C.B.C. policy has been in regard to new extensions in other areas. Many of the people seem to think we should have it because we have the microwave system already constructed by the Manitoba telephone system. I agree that that is a major step forward, but I should like to point out to the house, as I have tried to point out to the people, that the C.B.C. plan of operation has not been to construct those microwave lines themselves. They have under contract the Trans-Canada Communications system, which constructed the trans-Canada microwave system along with the Bell Telephone Company. The C.B.C. also allows those people to deal with various provincial telephone companies which have microwave systems and are willing to equip them with television