

Supply—C.B.C.

to ask the minister a number of questions which come to mind as a result of the committee's examination of the corporation a year ago. At this time I will make reference to only one or two.

I would hope that in the course of his remarks the minister could indicate the success or failure of the corporation in its attempt to obtain a greater recovery in relation to some of their productions which as we recall were produced at a great expense to the public treasury and from which in many instances the corporation received no return and in some instances received only a partial return. I would be interested in learning if they had any success with their sales staff in attempting to reduce the amount of money which the public treasury had to put up and upon which no return was realized.

Another point which is perhaps more local in nature but which is of great importance to us in western Canada is this. The corporation was recently awarded the television licence in the city of Edmonton. Naturally I do not want to discuss the award itself. Frankly I regret that the corporation decided to go into a market which is or could be so adequately served by private interests. I am interested in knowing whether or not the corporation is yet in a position to indicate if they are prepared to give extended facilities or boosted facilities at their Lacombe transmitter in Alberta so that all the corporations' interests are not centred in the northern half of the province. The situation as it is of present is that their radio signal covers only an area roughly south to Red Deer and no further. Consequently southern Alberta receives no radio signal and therefore no broadcasting from the corporation at all. It seems unfortunate that the corporation would entertain the idea of establishing at a great capital expense a television studio before fulfilling what I suggest it is their duty to complete, the establishment of facilities for the rest of the province with respect to radio transmission.

I also want to ask the minister whether in his view it is a sound policy for the corporation to compete in market areas such as Edmonton, and many other similar locations when there are yet so many areas in Canada which receive no television service. We have witnessed the unusual situation wherein these moneys were made available to the corporation and thus they entered into a market area to which a number of private broadcasters were prepared to offer much the same service. From the policy standpoint I ask if this is not a backward step in failing to provide television service to areas that require it. As it is we are providing this service to areas which could and should be adequately served by private interests.

There are a number of other points I should like to raise with respect to the corporation but I see that it is eleven o'clock.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire what the business is for tomorrow and Friday?

Mr. Churchill: Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, we will continue with the debate on second reading of the bill of rights. In view of the lengthened hours, each day now being the equivalent of two normal days, I am assuming that this debate will conclude during the course of the day. We will then go on with the estimates we were considering this evening, those of the C.B.C. and then the board of broadcast governors, followed by the estimates of the Department of Transport on which the committee has already spent four days. We are part way through.

On Friday there will be a continuation of estimates in the order I announced earlier in the week: external affairs, northern affairs, labour and public works. All of these are available for consideration.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to special order.