

Oral Questions

southern Canada. May I also ask the minister whether he is prepared to give that assurance to Canadians in that area now, that Ottawa will not intercede to ensure that that discrimination continues?

Mr. Fox: Madam Speaker, it has always been stated quite clearly that our main concern, or our main area of interest was in earth receiving stations that were used to rebroadcast programs received from satellites. We have always indicated that as far as the domestic use of these satellites for home personal purposes was concerned, it was not a matter of general concern to us.

The hon. member is mixing up two very different questions and is trying to identify or to render equal the two problems involved, one which concerns home receiving satellite stations, and satellite stations which are used to rebroadcast programs. We have always indicated quite clearly that the only earth satellite stations that we are looking at for prosecution purposes at the moment are earth satellite stations that were being used for rebroadcast purposes and that were, at the same time, interfering with other licensed cable operations, or interfering in general with the management of the spectrum.

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, the House will note that the minister did not answer the question as it related to the B.C. government and whether the minister intended to withdraw from agreements with B.C.

The minister knows full well that in dozens of communities in northern and remote areas, whole communities have banded together to put up earth stations to ensure that the whole of those communities will be able to receive freedom of choice in programming. Will the minister now remove his threat to launch prosecutions against Canadians living in rural and remote areas of Canada where communities have banded together to give themselves that freedom of choice?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fox: Madam Speaker, the hon. member is trying to create confrontation where none exists.

Mr. Beatty: I did not threaten to prosecute anyone.

Mr. Fox: I have gone out of my way over the past week trying not to build up the matter with the B.C. government into a question of a federal-provincial confrontation.

Mr. Beatty: I did not threaten to prosecute anyone.

Mr. Fox: If the hon. member will let me answer, he may learn something.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Arrogance.

An hon. Member: Listen, Joe Clark.

Mr. Fox: I fully expect that the minister of communications for the province of British Columbia will want to conform

immediately to the conditions set out in his licence. The licence was issued according to the terms that he requested, and I expect him to live up to those terms.

The hon. member is once again raising the question of possible prosecutions against communities in the north. The hon. member knows full well, because he was in the House this week when he asked the same question, that it is not our intention at the moment—

Mr. Clark: At the moment.

Mr. Fox: —to prosecute those communities. We have always indicated quite clearly, Madam Speaker, that it was our intention to await the outcome of the hearings of the CRTC, as was the position of the previous government, on the question of extension of television services to the north. From that point on, the CRTC would consider applications for licences for the north, and we would hope to bring an end to this problem by addressing the root of the problem and not simply by bringing up confrontation as the hon. member suggests.

Mr. Beatty: Don't make threats next time, Francis.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN POLLUTION—ABILITY OF INCO TO MEET PROVISIONS OF CONTROL ORDER**

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that the minister and his department were a party to the Ontario government's recent pollution control order aimed at limiting acid rain-producing emissions from Inco, and in view of the fact that last night the president of Inco Metals announced that his company was unable to meet the provisions of that control order for technical reasons, does the minister give any credence to the statement by the president of Inco and, if not, what steps is he and his department going to be taking, presumably with the Ontario government, to ensure that Inco will reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from its Copper Cliff smelter to 1,950 tons a day by 1983, in accordance with the terms of the control order that I have mentioned?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I think I have seen one press report giving information which the hon. member has just given to the House. I have not seen a transcript nor have I seen a full account of those remarks. I have no reason to believe that the order cannot be met.