

this end, Management has initiated twelve technical studies which will cover as many aspects as possible in the rapidly expanding technological field as well as reviewing our environment and social needs in order to redefine our role in future television broadcasting. April 1973, has been set as the deadline for completion of the various studies. The results of this review will not only benefit the Corporation's long term goals but will contribute to the ongoing development of program production.

REPORT ON REAL PROPERTY

The Vice-President, Planning (Mr. Gilmore) presented the agenda report which detailed the renewal of leases and completion of new leases for properties during the period November 22, 1971 to January 27, 1972. The President drew the Board's attention to the Regional Stores' lease of 11,650 square feet at 1355 William Street. This accommodation is required because of structural changes in the Maison de Radio-Canada making it impossible to integrate this service at the present time. Eventually, this area will be located either in the CBC International Broadcast Centre building or the Radio-Canada building once a decision has been taken as to which one or both will be retained once the total move to Maison de Radio-Canada has been completed. The President noted that 1976 Olympic needs will have a bearing on the future of the Radio-Canada building.

ACCELERATED COVERAGE PLAN

Following agreement in principle from the Government that the Corporation should proceed to plan for a completion of its extension of coverage as soon as possible to communities with a minimum population of 500, a joint working group of CBC and CRTC staff was established. The total cost of the plan based on 1971 census information should be completed by late summer or early fall. Meeting this target will be dependent to a large degree on the close co-operation and liaison achieved between the CBC, CRTC, Department of Communications and the Secretary of State's office. Provision for this project is expected to be contained in the Government's 1972/73 Estimates which will indicate the extent to which both CBC and CRTC will strive to accomplish this within the next five years. Anticipating that the Commission may ask whether any geographical or provincial portion of the total plan could be completed before then, in order to facilitate an early commencement of the extensions, Mr. Gilmore said that close co-operation on the part of the CRTC staff might result in the British Columbia situation being completed within eighteen months.

TELESAT AGREEMENT

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that the weekly meetings with Telesat have resolved many of the original difficulties with which the Corporation had taken exception and that the contract negotiations could be completed hopefully within the next four weeks. The President noted that the Corporation's request for a second audio facility for northern radio would be an area for which the Corporation would have to pay additional funds over and above the original cost estimates. Some thought is presently being given to the criticism that might emerge once the satellite is launched and operational that the Corporation will be inundating the northern regions with programming which is predominantly south-oriented rather than providing programming to serve the interests of the north. Mr. Gilmore said that this has been the subject of discussion by one of the English Service Division task forces where it is felt that certain periods such as during the dinner hour might allow the feeding of pre-recorded programs to give the service some northern identification until such time in the future when the CBC has the funds to construct a production centre in the north.

APPLICATIONS TO CRTC

The Vice-President, Corporate Affairs (Mr. Fraser) reviewed the agenda item which detailed those applications already submitted to the CRTC for which authority is still awaited, as well as those applications submitted but as yet not scheduled for hearing.