

*Radio and Television*

to remind members particularly of these words recorded on page 813 of *Hansard* in the middle of the second column:

I pay tribute where tribute is due. I think the Liberal government deserves a tribute once in a while for some of the things it did, at any rate. I want to point out this fact also. In the United States of America there are three television networks and according to the financial reports none of them, as networks, are making much money, if they are breaking even.

And then the minister went on to point out the difference between the situation there and here. If we could feel that the statements that the minister expressed on that occasion were going to be reflected in the policy of this government when it is finally brought in in this house, I hope during this session—the Prime Minister rather intimidated yesterday that we could look for everything this session that was forecast in the speech from the throne—we should be very pleased indeed. Of course, I cannot question what the Prime Minister said, though perhaps I can have a few private doubts about it. But we do feel it would be quite wrong for this session to go by without some firm indication of the direction in which the government intends to move. I must say that I personally would not be disposed to quarrel with the government too much if they did not finally complete their legislation this session, if they thought it more expedient to bring down the financial proposals which are in many ways, I think, the most urgent, and to indicate the lines along which they intended to proceed. I think that might be a wise course, because it would provide an opportunity not merely for us in this house and for the ladies and gentlemen in the other place to consider the government legislation, but it would also provide for the kind of opportunity that from time to time is given to the public generally to consider measures of great importance bringing about important reforms such as was given, for example, by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) in connection with the estates tax.

However, I recognize that it is not my responsibility nor my function to determine the course to be taken by the government. The most I can hope to do is to influence it, and I must say that if I can add a little to the influence which I hope and believe, and which there is certain evidence for believing, the Minister of National Revenue is exerting on his colleagues, I would feel we were moving in the right direction. I must say I was very pleased, too, by what the hon. member for Kootenay West said though he did not go quite as far yesterday as the Minister of National Revenue went the other evening.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

But the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) did say, as reported at page 2218 of *Hansard* of July 14, 1958:

I think this indicates very clearly that while, as the Leader of the Opposition said, there is no organization or group that does not make mistakes under very difficult conditions where we have had this development of television, a very expensive medium of communication in recent years, changed technical conditions, procedures and things of that sort, the C.B.C. has done a wonderful job in this country, which is recognized by the Canadian people as a whole.

I would be the last person to claim that the government which was in office for all but one year of the life of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation deserves all the credit or even most of the credit for the achievements of that corporation but I do not think it can be denied nor do I think the Minister of National Revenue—although that may not be true of all his colleagues—would want to deny that the government which was in office from the time the C.B.C. was established in 1936 until certain unfortunate events in June of last year did create a climate in which the kind of C.B.C. could be developed of which the vast majority of the Canadian people are very proud as was shown, I think, whenever the issue was joined either in this house, in any parliamentary committee or whenever it was investigated by successive royal commissions.

It seems to me as the Leader of the Opposition very well pointed out yesterday, and as has been pointed out by almost every one who has spoken with the exception of the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon), who seemed to have rather different ideas about the C.B.C., that the feeling in this house is that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, or perhaps I should rather say a national broadcasting system receiving a considerable measure of support from public funds, is essential to the national life of our country. The problem of radio and television broadcasting, as I see it, is the problem of Canada itself. It is the problem we have confronted over and over again ever since we made the resolution nearly 100 years ago to create a trans-continental nation in the northern half of this continent. We have discovered in almost everything we have tackled on a national scale that, because geographically we are inevitably on the margin of a country with ten times the population and more than ten times the developed—I do not say the undeveloped but the developed—resources of our own, that it is not possible to allow our national institutions to develop solely by the free play of economic forces. I have a predilection for the free play of economic forces; indeed, I belong to a party which has