

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

like, all have to be explored. As I have said, communications is the most rapidly changing factor in our rapidly changing times, so it is important that we consider this legislation and consider it well. I myself can visualize the day when satellites in the sky will make obsolete the land lines that are so much a part of our communications industry today. Satellites of such sophistication will be perfected that they will be able to transmit directly to radio and television receivers, even to telephones, without the need for an earth station to intercept signals and amplify them.

The final point I should like to make is that there is an advantage in the government being in this partnership. I do not share the views of those who would make it either entirely publicly owned or set up a crown corporation. Similarly, I do not agree with those who would swing the other way and make it entirely a matter for the communications companies themselves. I think there is a good place for government here. I can see the advantage, for example, of the government's being able to deal more effectively with the problems of interference with the operation of satellites or being able to deal with the problems of electronic garbage cluttering up signals to and from these satellites perched 23,000 miles above the equator. I was almost going to say perched "horizontally up" from Winnipeg, since if you draw a tangential line from the North Pole above Winnipeg you would probably hit this little satellite spang on its metallic casing. "Horizontally up" is a phrase that has been added to the English language during our deliberations over recent days.

In any event, I share the enthusiasm of our communications people as to what this technology is going to bring about. I also share the enthusiasm of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) about what the satellite will be able to do in the way of removing some of the spartan elements of life in northern Canada, and what it will do to bring the two languages of Canada and our great dual culture to all of our people. For these reasons, I support the motion for second reading and reference to committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order; it being ten o'clock, the house will now proceed to the questions on the adjournment motion.

[Mr. McCleave.]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

TERMINATION OF PROGRAM "DON MESSER'S JUBILEE"

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, out of orbit and now back on earth, may I say that a few days ago the C.B.C. released its fall and winter schedule of television programs. Most of the programs were renewed but Don Messer and his Islanders were not included in that schedule.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. McCleave: Having checked with C.B.C. officials in Halifax and other sources I find that the decision, or lack of decision, reposes in the Toronto offices of the C.B.C. What has taken place, sir, for those who are familiar with the inner workings of radio and television, seems very much like the kiss of death for a program that has been good and popular fare for several millions of Canadians over the past decade. I am speaking tonight on this matter because I can sense the flap of the wings of the culture vultures in Toronto and I want to drive them back to their roost before they do in a very fine piece of entertainment. Recently the Toronto group took a perfectly good Saturday program entitled "Comedy Cafe", which I thought excellent, and replaced it with a big brass band from Toronto. Now, I have nothing against big brass bands from Toronto, not even Saturday night; but I thought the Montreal production of "Comedy Cafe" was a great program. I thought particularly that the skit involving an English speaking wife and a French speaking husband showed the problems they encountered in their marriage and was a good way of demonstrating to Canadians the problems that we, in more grandiose but less humorous terms, must deal with when considering matters of national unity.

● (10:00 p.m.)

This appetite on the part of Toronto personages for producing shows in Toronto and not producing them in Montreal, Halifax or Vancouver is voracious and ought to be checked. We cannot doubt the popularity of the Messer group. I recall on July 1, 1967, when the Messer group was touring Canada,