

Supply—National Revenue

broadcasting, that is broadcasting to countries other than Canada or the United States. The funds are provided from government sources by direct vote.

The service was started in the latter part of the war partly to provide broadcasting for Canadian troops overseas and also to broadcast at that time to friends in Europe, in occupied countries and in some neutral countries as part of the war effort, and also to do information work. After the war the service naturally changed emphasis to some extent and was extended to more general broadcasting to a number of western European countries including Czechoslovakia. A service was begun in Spanish and Portuguese in South America to provide Canadian information there. It developed during the years and finally reached the stage which it has now reached.

The service to most of the western European countries started with the war. The Dutch and French services, the German, Italian and weekly Finnish services, the Czech service, which was one of the early ones, the Polish service was added—I think I mentioned the Italian service—then the Ukrainian part was added to the Russian service fairly recently.

The broadcasts go out from the big transmitting station at Sackville and reach Europe very successfully—the signal received in Europe is as good as any from North America. They reach South America quite well and they can also reach Australia and New Zealand to which countries we have been transmitting weekly broadcasts. That was about the extent of the service last year.

Then a decision was made to reduce the cost of these transmissions,—

The reduced cost is the amount of money that hon. members see in the estimates, which shows a reduction of about \$600,000 from what was spent a year ago.

Then a decision was made to reduce the cost of these transmissions, and the services to western European countries have in the last month or two been reduced at considerable saving. The services to the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands and Italy are to be reduced to only small services at week ends. The Finnish service has been dropped. The French and English services have been reduced and the service to the Latin-American countries has also been reduced, but the actual time spent in broadcasting to countries beyond the "iron curtain" has been increased and better listening times provided for the services in Russian, Ukrainian, Polish and Czechoslovakian. That is a very quick outline of the service.

I just bring this to the attention of the committee because of the fact that by the reduction of services we propose to save something in the neighbourhood of \$600,000 a year.

The committee held very satisfactory meetings. A report was drawn up which was not unanimous but which made certain recommendations. I have no doubt that those who follow me in the debate will make reference to that report, and I am going to leave most of the discussion to my fellow members of the committee.

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, there are this year actually four items in the estimates that pertain to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. They are numbers 56 and 57, which relate to the international shortwave

broadcasting service, No. 641 in the supplementaries, which also relates to the shortwave broadcasting service, and then No. 785 which proposes a loan of \$8,500,000 to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, to be applied in payment of expenditures to cover capital costs of television installations and to support the development of the services.

Sir, the minister has made reference to the sittings of the committee. I should like to make a comment first of all about attitudes toward the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has many friends in this house, and whatever may be our views on policy—and there are strong views taken on policy both in the field of regulation of radio broadcasting and in the policy now applied in reference to television, as well as in questions relating to finance—none the less I think we all recognize that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has leading it men of competence, men who are deeply attached to the corporation and its objectives; and I think those of us who have had the privilege of sitting on this committee on broadcasting always look forward to these meetings and the opportunities they afford of delving into the affairs of this important corporation.

As to the committee itself, I should like to pay this word of tribute to my friend the chairman, the hon. member for Portneuf. He conducted the meetings from the chair with discretion, good temper and benevolence, and there was a good feeling in the committee. I will not say there were not occasions in that committee when differences of opinion as to what was properly within the scope of the committee's reference gave rise to sharp exchanges; but when some hon. members supporting the government showed allergies every time any suggestion of bringing in reports was put forward, I must absolve the chairman. In his duties he was fair and benevolent.

The report which was tabled in the house on June 17, and is to be found at pages 763-5 of *Votes and Proceedings*, was not unanimous. There were some sections of that report which we of the Conservative party did support, but there were a number of sections in the report against which we were obliged to vote, and the report itself was a majority report. We voted against it.

I should like to say in general, sir, that I think it is opportune that even though this hour is very late and the stage of this session is very advanced, there should be even this limited opportunity for debate, because I am convinced—and I have sat on every one of these committees on broadcasting since 1945—that we are rapidly approaching a juncture where there are important changes