

Broadcasting

now going into specific details of a particular matter which is one which would, perhaps, be better taken up before the committee.

(Translation):

Mr. Martel: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Of course, I do not think I will be appointed to the committee that will be established this year. I was not on the committee last year. That is why I saw fit to point out some particular cases which should be considered in the light of facts. In any case, if the committee wishes to consider the question, I will be delighted to provide it with the information I have on hand.

Mr. Speaker, I will abide by your decision and continue with the few remarks I have to make.

There is another somewhat peculiar case. I will not go into details, but it concerns representations made to me by the director of the operations of *Radio Nord Incorporée*, a radio and television station that may not be located in my riding but whose television programs reach us, as do radio programs of stations affiliated with that network.

I am referring to a program given on December 9, 1960, when all the private networks telecast the conference of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker).

Station CKRN-TV did not have the privilege of telecasting that program, whereas the stations of the province of Quebec, Jonquiere, Rimouski, Matane, Three Rivers and Quebec—in a word all private stations in the province of Quebec—were able to do so.

I want to mention a complaint addressed to me, and on which I might give more ample information to the committee if the matter was found to be of interest.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that, in the northern areas, as the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Simpson) indicated earlier, there are vast stretches of land, and a member who spoke after the representative for Churchill seemed to want to make fun of the great empty spaces and swampy areas, but I must say that in those isolated districts, there are citizens without any means of communication, who can hardly get any news. In short, they are almost cut off from the rest of the country. Yet, those people are entitled to better treatment.

I am thinking of some districts in my constituency, such as Parent, Clova and Senneterre. With regard to Senneterre, I know that its request for a low frequency station was accepted by the B.B.G. and that it is now only a question of time. I think that people in the

Abitibi region, and more particularly the people of Senneterre, will enthusiastically welcome the opening of that station.

But as they also would like to have television, various ways of going about it have been suggested to them. A collective tower or antenna, for instance, was mentioned, or the setting up of a satellite station. Those requests are being analysed at this time because some centres are sufficiently populated to warrant a serious study of a network that would reach them.

I want to point out that the mining population of the Chapais and Chibougamau districts has been established there for several years and has contributed not only in pushing the frontier further north, but also in helping the advance of civilization.

Mr. Speaker, I shall now end my remarks and I hope that the committee will study the responsibilities of the C.B.C. in detail and submit suggestions and recommendations to this house, in order to improve the present service as much as possible.

Moreover, I hope that the committee will voice some constructive criticism when necessary, in order to give people in the remote areas more consideration. These people are not second class citizens, but Canadian citizens and proud of it; consequently, they deserve to be treated with the greatest consideration, like all other Canadians. They also pay taxes, and as the population in the remote areas is gradually becoming more numerous, it is time that they get the C.B.C. services.

For all these reasons, I shall vote in favour of the motion to set up this committee.

(Text):

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has served the Canadian people well for many years. The corporation, under successive governments, has been necessary to the development of the Canadian nation and to the development of the bilingual nature of its culture.

There has been evidence in recent years that the government has been prepared to remove some of the powers of the corporation and has been interested in having the C.B.C. develop its commercial revenues to a much wider extent. In my judgment this has weakened the corporation and has called into question the standards of the broadcasts it has been able to deliver.

Because of the size of our country and its bilingual nature it has been deemed necessary to have a national broadcasting system not dependent in its entirety on revenues obtained in a commercial way. Therefore