

relatively newsworthy and entertaining television service that has ever been available in that community. None of the other broadcast systems were ever brought into that remote northern mining community. That type of broadcast is extremely important to families in terms of keeping up to date about what is going on in the world. The problem though is that those individuals in the community who watch a lot of television tend to know more about politics in California or on the eastern seaboard than they do about politics in Canada. For that reason I am very sensitive to this situation and the need to promote increased Canadian content on the air waves.

But when there is no policy in place or no satellite communication in place to provide television to communities such as Cassiar or the Queen Charlottes, it is only good sense that an interim plan be followed, one which makes clear to northern, remotely-located Canadians that this type of satellite, although it means the pirating of signals, will be allowed to continue. The government should get on with the transmission of letters between Canada and the government of the United States to ensure that the scrambling of those signals will not occur.

The CRTC can hear at any time from southern Canadian cable companies and so on ad infinitum. However, unless Parliament debates this policy the interest of southern Canadians may end up being served by corporate cable systems and television stations to the exclusion of the viewing rights of northerners. I am concerned about this, and I trust that both Liberal and Conservative members will rise to participate in debate, support the motion and endorse a parliamentary debate on this serious issue.

Too often, policies are made in the majority interest to the serious detriment of a minority—in this case regionally and geographically and isolated minorities. We hear evidence from Liberal members and Conservative members that the constitution should protect various minority rights. My party certainly takes part in that debate and supports that view. In a country such as Canada, it is extremely important that the rights of minorities be entrenched and supported.

However, pay television, CRTC policy and the demands of the cable systems do not deal with our needs in the north. The minister espouses the extension of services to the north as a priority according to recent statements, but history speaks for itself. The October 28 budget makes it quite clear where the government stands in relation to the northern extension of service. In my view a burgeoning, bureaucratic miasma of red tape is not required in this situation.

If the government wishes to put good quality, Canadian television on the air waves in the north, that is good and I tip my hat. However, once again history speaks for itself. Northern communities have fought for what we have and the decisions and agreements which ought to have been made in our interests have simply not been made. The 19-month extension of ANIK B programming is good and so is Telesat.

For the record I will list some of the projects which are under way. Certainly, some of these projects are important, but as hon. members will see, there are none which relate

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directly to what I am speaking about today. The first program listed under the minister's program on the extension of existing pilot projects is an evaluation of a 90-megabits-per-second digital link, which hardly affects my riding. There is the Ontario government teleconferencing network project, the Knowledge Network of the West, an interactive video educational system for southern British Columbia educational institutions; the distance education project in Alberta, and an interactive video educational system for communities in Alberta, all of which would have little or no impact on the north.

Other projects are Northern Ontario Hybrid Direct Broadcast, Operational Trial sponsors a good project which brings TV Ontario directly into remote homes and communities via satellite, and the Program Delivery Pilot Project West, is an extension of CBC and BCTV programs into northern British Columbia which only impacts on one very small community in my riding.

There is the Memorial University of Newfoundland Pilot Project which is for health and education exchanges in the province. Then there is the Inukshuk Project sponsored by the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada which is very well known to the Eastern Arctic. The Time Division Multiple Access or Slim TDMA project deals with digital technology applicable to business services and does not affect the north. The next program is called Long Baseline Interferometer which involves the use of a satellite to link radio telescopes for geophysical studies. It is an important scientific program, but in terms of communications policy, it does nothing for northern Canada. Then there is the Naalakvik II program for the Inuit of northern Quebec which puts emphasis on Inuit broadcasting education and community educations. It is obviously a good project, but it does little to bring broad-based educational, entertainment or news service to all of northern Canada.

I will list now some of the new projects upon which the government stands. I believe it will bring home to hon. members precisely why this motion should be supported. The first project is the delivery of teleprinter, audio and Telidon news-information signals which involves the delivery of satellite news directly to radio and television stations and cable companies. It does nothing for the north. The second project involves electronic news gathering. It is there to provide on-the-spot news coverage essentially for southern Canada. Then there is the transportable telephony earth stations project which is for terrestrial and offshore oil industry operations. The fourth project listed is called Inter-Omnibus and is sponsored by the University of Quebec to provide educational services to remote campuses of the university.

Then there are three experiments and demonstrations. The first is called Trans-Canada Amateur Radio Packet Network. It does not deal at all with the educational, entertainment or news areas of television. The second such project is called Technical Evaluation of Digital Modulation Schemes—it is sponsored by the University of Ottawa. The third project is called the Support of Australian Domestic Satellite Programs. So rather than offering something for northern Canadians, the