

Miss LaMarsh: No. Mr. Chairman, if there were a better phrase it may be that it would have already been discovered. My attention has just been drawn by the Chairman to the conclusion of the report of this Committee on the White Paper which quotes from the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Mr. Bennett, when he set up the CBC.

Mr. Fairweather: I wonder where that quote came from.

Miss LaMarsh:

may be fostered and sustained and national unity still further strengthened."

I suppose "national unity" is a phrase that is especially Canadian and means something to Canadians but might not mean anything to anyone coming in. Surely, it means about the same thing to all Canadians whether we are able to express it or not because it has been meaning that for, I suppose, a hundred years; certainly for the time of the CBC.

Mr. Reid: Excuse me, I do not think it does. Without intending to be partisan, may I suggest that even within the same political party, the idea of national unity, for instance in the mind of Mr. Trudeau, is quite different from that in the mind of Mr. Paul Gerin-Lajoie. It is a pious word you cannot define and you cannot define how you are going to achieve it. This is the point.

Miss LaMarsh: It is not for the government to define it in this context.

Mr. Fairweather: We have a very great concern, Mr. Reid. The comments of Mr. Gerin-Lajoie, one of the very knowledgeable people in the constitutional field, I do not happen to agree with at the moment, but he still is a most articulate person in trying to define these issues.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, if I may say, I was just suggesting that Mr. Gerin-Lajoie was not a member of the federal wing of the Liberal Party and it is well known there are disputes between the federal wing and the provincial wing.

Mr. Fairweather: That is the point. That is exactly the point we are trying to make.

Mr. Reid: He is a Canadian, though.

Mr. Fairweather: Perhaps we can come back to this. The other point at this stage is

this: is the Minister satisfied—and I would like perhaps some time to be taken by the Minister and her officials—with the definition of broadcasting as contained in the Bill? I understand that there has been criticism of this by experts, and also I myself have some doubts as to whether this definition is what the Minister intends.

An hon. Member: Is Mr. Fairweather talking about the definition in clause 59, the interpretation part?

• (4:20 p.m.)

Miss LaMarsh: There has been some criticism—I have forgotten the source—about the definition. It is my recollection that the definition which is used in the act was drawn from the internationally accepted one. I admit that it talks about broadcasting being things picked up off the air. One of the criticisms that has been is that there will be an increasing amount of canned cable and no pick up out of the air and that this act would therefore not apply to it. All I can say is that that is probably true although I do not want to prejudge whether it is or not. There is a very considerable question as to whether there is any constitutional right in the federal government, under the guise of broadcasting, to deal with these canned cable programs unless they cross provincial lines. We have done the best we can within what appear to be the constitutional limits.

Mr. Fairweather: I am going to suggest one that perhaps the Minister will recognize and then we can go on. Perhaps this is not the stage to do this, Mr. Chairman.

Miss LaMarsh: If you have a specific suggestion I might...

The Chairman: It might be useful if you have a suggestion in an area which the officials could work on.

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, especially the technical. The more time I have to look it over the better.

Mr. Fairweather: One that has been suggested is broadcasting of the electromagnetic distribution of programs intended for public reception. This encompasses Hertzian waves, land lines, cable or other electromagnetic means.

Miss LaMarsh: Yes, I do recognize it.