

*Supply—Secretary of State*

improvement in this particular area. It is an improvement that a great many Canadians—I venture to say the majority of Canadians—desperately and devoutly wished and which they now hail with considerable satisfaction.

On the whole, Mr. Chairman, I think the programming is now considerably better balanced. There is certainly less of what I regarded as blatant and unreasonable anti-Americanism in the C.B.C. television news broadcasts and some of the more telescopic public affairs programs such as "Viewpoint". As I say, I think this creeping evidence of balanced objectivity is a response to the views enunciated in this chamber and articulated by people outside the chamber, not just by professionals, such as members of the press and people in other areas of professional life who have spoken up, but by the average citizen who has made his opinions known through the mail, at meetings and by word of mouth. I suggest they can take satisfaction from something that represents an obvious improvement in our national broadcasting service and its approach to national events and affairs. Much needs to be done, but there is evidence of the legitimacy of many of the criticisms some of us expressed about the C.B.C.

● (9:50 p.m.)

About ten days ago, Mr. Marcel Ouimet, a top executive of the corporation, felt constrained to issue a directive focussing attention on separatist influences and programming tendencies within the corporation. Inside and outside this chamber during the past two years, evidence, with supporting documentation, was given of this unfortunate and nefarious practice. Unfortunately, though, these activities have been hard to prove. Such activities, which are sensational and invite criticism, tend to compromise the credibility of the person making a charge. I think that those who spoke out against the use of existing C.B.C. facilities for the spread of separatist influences are to be commended.

The criticisms of the corporation which have been made are justified beyond all shadow of doubt. Because of Mr. Marcel Ouimet's initiative a few days ago evidence in black and white was brought forward to show that this unfortunate manipulation and exploitation of national broadcasting facilities, for which each and every one of us pays, was taking place. The evidence of that manipulation and exploitation was so serious and

[Mr. Sherman.]

strong that a senior executive, Mr. Ouimet, felt constrained to tell all program and production personnel working under him that he was aware of this practice, and that it was their responsibility in the interests of Canada and confederation to eliminate it so far as was constitutionally and legally practicable within the national corporation. At the same time it must be remembered that a great many people in the corporation display loyalty and patriotism to this nation.

Much needs to be done to improve the corporation, as was made evident in the past few days. Nevertheless, having been fairly free with my criticisms of the C.B.C., I wish to take this opportunity to say that I believe in giving credit where credit is due. I believe a concerted effort has been made in recent weeks on the part of program directors and senior executives of the C.B.C. to bring a new balance to their public affair programs, and I commend them for that. There is room for better balance, as there is always room and need for vigilance and management responsibility, but a start has been made in the direction of improving matters. I should be delinquent as a member of this chamber and as one who is interested in this field if I failed to recognize the improvement that has taken place.

May I say a word or two about the Board of Broadcast Governors, covered by this item in the estimates. Though some of my remarks have not dealt with this central subject, since Your Honour was charitable enough to allow others to deviate from it I hoped you would allow me to do the same, and I thank you for allowing me a certain latitude.

When considering the B.B.G. we must realize that in Canadian broadcasting we have come to the end of an era, an important era in an important industry. Soon the B.B.G. will be phased out of existence, to be replaced by the regulatory authority, the Canadian Radio and Television Commission. It behooves us now to salute an authoritative body that has made great contributions to Canadian broadcasting. In particular it behooves members of this house to salute the outgoing head of the B.B.G., Dr. Andrew Stewart. I do not know what plans Dr. Stewart has for his future because I have not been privy to any decision that has been made. However, judging from the silence on the subject I should judge that Dr. Stewart is not planning to extend his active life in broadcasting at this time. If one may judge from the lack of comment with