

CBC doesn't deserve all news

by Randy Kerr

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should not have been awarded the licence for an all-news network, said Jim Edwards, the current MP for Edmonton Southwest, and parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Communications, Flora MacDonnell.

Edwards said he is a supporter of the CBC, especially as an alternative to American programming, but he stated that it should not be allowed to monopolize all the national news. All four radio versions of the CBC — AM, FM and both national languages — are quite efficient and provide a good service to the Canadian public, he said. However, he also pointed out that an all-news network is not in the CBC's man-

date, nor would the network be in both official languages which is required of the CBC. Also, the fact that they would remain based out of Toronto would increase regional disparity.

Until Dec. 29, 1987, Edwards was the chairman of the standing committee on communications and culture. He resigned his position so that he could voice his concerns publicly over the CRTC decision, which chose the CBC proposal over one from Allacom in Edmonton. The Allacom application proposed an Edmonton-based network with alliances in other provinces to achieve full representation across the country.

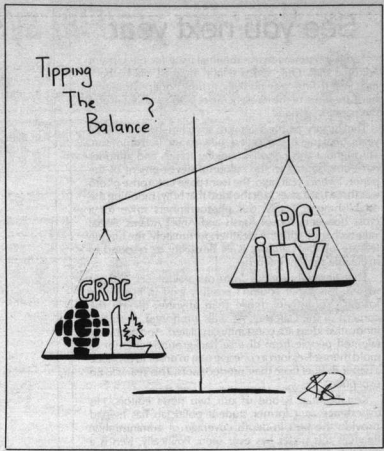
Following his resignation, Edwards found that the CBC was eager to

cover his stand, supposedly to gather support for their side. However, in his journeys, Edwards discovered that there was a lot of negative public response to the CBC, and he began to lobby all the ministries to overrule the CRTC decision.

In making its decision, the CRTC considered the US all-news network, CNN. However, they neglected to consider the fact that the CNN's subscribers get their subscriptions in a package deal with other networks, said Edwards. A very small percentage of people get subscriptions solely for the CNN.

Edwards asked his audience to consider several different questions. Did the CBC have a right to even apply for the licence? Did the CRTC err in neglecting that right? Would the news be in too few hands? Since the CBC is a Crown Corporation and supposed to represent the entire country, should it be allowed to produce a program in only one language? And lastly, shouldn't we have some programming and opinions coming from somewhere other than Toronto?

The CBC currently operates under a budget of \$1.1 billion. The entire amount is given to it by Parliamentary Appropriations Committee except for \$160 million which is raised



by selling advertising. Edwards said that CBC Enterprises lost \$9 million in ventures that were supposed to make money and that the CBC suffers from bad management structure.

In the question period, Edwards answered questions concerning Bill C-72, the recent cabinet shuffle and the Free Trade deal. The event was sponsored by the U of A Progressive Conservative Club.

Military pros and cons

MONTREAL (CUP) — Requiring professor to outline the positive and negative aspects of their research will now be part of McGill University's new policy to monitor its military research.

Amendments to the University Regulation on Research Policy were adopted following charges that McGill is restricting the publication of findings from the school's research on fuel-air explosives for the Department of National Defence (DND).

But the amended policy, adopted February 10 by the university senate, was criticized as "totally ineffective" by Political Science professor Sam Noumoff.

"We would be deceiving ourselves if we thought we had addressed the problem of military research through this document," said Noumoff, who was the only senate member opposed to the policy.

"There are no criteria at all laid out for monitoring research. The individual is responsible for judging the ethics of their research for themselves."

Education professor Eigel Pederson, also a senate member said the proposal would provide "some

protection" against illegal military research which was better than "none at all."

"This is an issue on which we will never be able to get consensus," said Pederson.

The senate reviewed McGill's monitoring policy following accusations by graduate student David Schulze that publication of research

findings could be limited by clauses in the school's fuel air explosives contracts.

"What the DND has retained is the right to restrict publication of any idea, process or invention," Schulze said.

According to Associate Dean of Research Bitten Stripp, the clauses only apply for a 12-month period.

"If there are open-ended restrictions on publication, we will not make the contract," she said.

The fuel-air explosives contracts, worth over \$25,000, were awarded to the McGill engineering department by the Defence Research Establishment, a unit of the DND. The contracts have been the target of several student protests, including a six-day occupation of the administration offices in March 1987.

"Shoved down our throats"

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Van Gardener, owner of Varsity Drugs.

Gardener explained that the notices requesting them to "deliver up possession of their premises" came without warning.

"We have sort of gotten things shoved down our throats."

Living Earth and the other tenants are being "evicted" to make room for newer and more profitable stores, according to Hall.

The administration is trying to create "a proper mix of tenants," said Hall, adding that they plan to "modernize" the mall by bringing in fast food franchises and enforcing

new "decorating standards."

Hall said he is "angry" and "dismayed" with the situation. While claiming that he has had no previous trouble with the mall, he admits that he was late in signing a renewal option for his lease.

"It was never my intent not to renew; they used it as an excuse to give my space to someone who could afford more rent."

When asked if the administration had collected any student consensus on remodeling the mall, Belik refused to comment, saying only that "appropriate actions will be taken when they are required."

A lengthy but unproductive mee-

ting with HUB administration did not yield any results for Hall, who said he was "shut out" because general manager Jim Malone side-stepped his appeals to reinstate Natural Earth's lease.

"The Board of Governor's silence is deafening — they fail to recognize the wishes of students," said Hall.

Uncertain where tenants can take their case next, Hall says he will go wherever he can get someone to listen.

"One student suggested that we have a sit-in... but that's not our style."

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Red Deer condoms recalled

RED DEER (CUP) — Start worrying if you've ever used the condoms from a dispenser at Red Deer College for anything other than a water balloon.

An inspector with the Health Protection branch of the department of Health and Welfare was called to the Alberta college when students reported condoms in a campus pub dispenser had outlasted their expiry date of June 1987.

Inspector Keith Hutcheon said condom manufacturers "are definitely required to have an expiry date" on their condoms, and the date of expiry "can be no more than five years from the date of manufacture."

This means the condoms, which did not have expiry dates listed on each individual package, could have been manufactured as early as 1982, and that they had expired. The condoms were supplied by A.J. Holdings, a Red Deer company.

The dispenser was stocked with new condoms at the beginning of March, said Terry Ivan, students council business manager, and each one lists the expiry date.