

as many Ontario hockey fans know very well. And, after the Etobicoke and Hartford experiments, pay-TV is about to get a full trial in California beginning July 1.

As Mr. Ouimet has suggested, TV re-broadcasting stations and pay-TV require study before situations develop in Canada which may or may not be in the best interests of Canadian broadcasting and the Canadian public.

Last year, my predecessor, Mr. Pickersgill, asked three gentlemen - Dr. Stewart, Chairman of the BBG, Mr. Ouimet, President of the CBC and Mr. Jamieson, the President of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters - to consider some of the problems and questions I have cited here. I am told that the Troika, as these gentlemen are more popularly nicknamed, have almost finished their work, envisaged by my predecessor as "an essential first step to a new definition of public policy in the field of broadcasting" and as preliminary to a public inquiry.

With this in mind, and wishing to end the uncertainties in Canadian broadcasting, the Government now feels the time has come to provide for an inquiry into these matters through a committee on broadcasting to be set up by the Government.

The Government hopes to be in a position to make a more detailed announcement about this broadcasting committee in the very near future.

Role of Television

No doubt the purpose of television is to entertain, to educate and inform. That is, it must fill an important cultural purpose. It can contribute greatly to the development of our intellectual life by helping our artists and our cultural associations. It can also make culture more accessible to the general public. To the extent that television fulfils its cultural task and takes into account our two cultures, it will become a living and daily testimony of Canadian identity and a powerful element of understanding and of unity in our country.

But I think till now Canadian broadcasting, Canadian television in particular, has not adequately played its essential role. In part this explains why we have cultural poverty in Canada and why we fear foreign cultural domination - why we Canadians know each other so little and why we suffer present tensions.

I hope that this situation will change very soon. I believe it will. To this end, the Government, by deciding to establish the broadcasting committee, wishes to play its part in helping broadcasters to play theirs. Indeed in all fields, whenever and wherever possible and appropriate, the Government intends to actively promote Canadian culture in all its variety.

This endeavour calls out for your help and the help of many other Canadians. And so, to paraphrase a now famous dictum, let us make war on cultural poverty in Canada. Let all Canadians make this their common cause and their common campaign: not to fetter the spirit but to free it; not to