

*The Address—Mr. Pugh*

new danger. For that reason I say the government should have taken a better look at it.

This arbitrary action has produced the result that the industry—and it is a fairly large industry throughout Canada—is in an uproar. You can imagine why, Mr. Speaker. For the most part these companies carry United States stations, and now we have a directive saying that no future licences will be granted and that licences pending will not be granted. To my mind this is the crux of the whole matter. Like any other industry in Canada, this industry wants to expand. It has a right to expand. It was set up and constituted originally under an act of parliament. Why then chop it off in the middle?

There have been other results. For instance, in my own area two new subdivisions are being built. The people concerned wanted to take unsightly aerials off the rooftops and they put in cable television. The question now is, are people going to buy the cable television? They certainly will not if it looks as though there will not be any expansion in this field.

The cable television people tell me that their sales have gone down considerably. They also tell me that customers who used to buy cable television on an annual rental basis now only buy it by the month. Of course that is common sense, but there is one thing the government ought to know, and I wrote the Prime Minister on this subject during the recess, telling him about the number of well thought out letters I had received asking what the government thought it was doing on this subject. The thing I want to impress upon the Prime Minister is the fact that people took the trouble to write, and I should think that many hon. members on the Liberal side received exactly the same amount of correspondence.

These people are indignant because they have been put in the position that they do not know what the future will be. They are indignant because they feel there is strong discrimination against them, and because they think it is an invasion of their individual rights, as it well may be.

In my own area the television stations are providing an excellent service where they can. They carry Canadian content. They have good C.B.C. programs, and incidentally for the most part I think C.B.C. programs are rather good. The Okanagan and Similkameen areas are well served by one central television station. They have outlets all the way through. But in the Boundary area things are not so good. In fact they are rather poor. I always remember a Liberal candidate in one of the elections in which I ran not too long ago who got on the platform and said "If you elect a Liberal government you will have television within two weeks." Well, the two weeks have

gone by. Frankly I do not think they are going to get television now, but that is no reason why I should not keep asking for it, as I have done from the beginning.

Okanagan Boundary country includes Grand Forks, Greenwood, Christina Lake, Midway, and Rock Creek. All these places have been completely overlooked by the C.B.C. Not only have they been overlooked with regard to television, but I think that in radio the signals are extremely weak. A few months ago, as a matter of fact last June, the Secretary of State said he would look into this. How far he looked I do not know, but the results have been practically nil.

In Greenwood we see an example of what this decision can do. In Greenwood, which is one of the old, old mining cities and rather a wonderful old place situated in my riding, there is a cable company, a newly formed company which has gone in there, and despite the fact that they put their money down and applied for a licence they are not getting anywhere. This man's savings are invested in this thing. He had gone to a great deal of trouble and expense. He has a C.B.C. outlet on cable. He also has two United States stations on cable.

To get back to this objection that I have. Why should this government, right out of the blue, say "Hey, we are not going to issue any more licences at all"? Frankly I doubt whether they would have the right to do that. If they have, then those licences they issued previously might have been issued under an act which is *ultra vires*. Of course I do not think that is so. Why can this government say arbitrarily "No more T.V. licences"?

This is a point they should look at, I think. In this Greenwood area of the boundary, but for cable T.V. there would be no television whatsoever. I point out that there is a Canadian channel available to residents of that area, and instead of hamstringing this man, I think the government should get off its perch and look into it quickly and see that he does get a licence to go on. Certainly this restrictive business has gone much too far.

A few statistics would not hurt. Cable television reaches about 250,000 homes or a population of approximately 900,000. That is an estimate. C.B.C. television programs go to 92 per cent of the Canadian population. But 50 per cent of all Canadians are situated along the border, and they can pick up United States stations on their television sets without the use of cable or otherwise. When you talk about discrimination I get a little annoyed when I think of the people in my riding who are cut off and far away from signals emanating in the United States or Canada; that they are going to be restricted, they are going to