

Supply—Secretary of State

corporation's operations and at the direction in which it should be moving. I think it is equally important that the new Canadian regulatory body should start functioning as quickly as possible.

The new regulatory body should be taking a hard look at the over-all picture concerning the future of Canadian broadcasting and should be considering the new guide lines to be laid down. In addition to the points raised by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond I wish to stress one important area which should receive early attention from the new regulatory body, and this covers the question of how the operations of community antenna systems are going to fit into the current broadcasting picture.

One of the most important changes made in the Broadcasting Act involved community antenna systems. I believe that all concerned should know as quickly as possible the rules, regulations, and the lines of departure that the new regulatory body is going to lay down in this connection. This is something of vital concern to much of the coastal area of British Columbia. At the moment it is of very real concern to certain operators within my area on Vancouver island.

As the parliamentary secretary is aware, the coastal area of British Columbia and Vancouver island is broken up by mountains which interfere with television reception. What is now needed is information on extensions planned by the C.B.C. and private broadcasters in the conventional sense, and the degree of freedom of action which community antenna system operators will enjoy, particularly in the utilization of microwave lengths.

C.A.T.V. people have expressed many fears about the prospect of their coming under the jurisdiction of the new regulatory body. I have suggested that if this new body operates as I feel it should operate, then it will protect community antenna operators, because under the terms of the legislation it must take them into consideration as part of the total broadcasting picture throughout the country.

● (9:00 p.m.)

As I have said this could be a matter of great importance and practical concern to many communities in the more isolated areas of the country which at the present time are not able to enjoy any form of television broadcasting. Associated with this I would hope that the new regulatory body, when

[Mr. Barnett.]

planning the total broadcasting picture, would impress upon the C.B.C. the importance of bringing at least basic television coverage to the areas of the country which do not now have it through the public broadcasting system. Again, in mentioning the whole northern three quarters of Vancouver island, which is one area that for a long time had neither television nor radio coverage from the public broadcasting system, I am happy to say that this last year, some 13 or 14 years after I first began making representations, radio service has been brought to many of these communities. However, I understand that television coverage for these areas is a long way in the future.

I believe this matter should be given priority by the council and the C.B.C. when planning its future capital expenditures program. When considering the capital financing requirements of the C.B.C., especially in view of the further terms of reference we have given in the new act, I believe the council should recognize the importance of the C.B.C. bringing at least its basic radio and television services to the areas of Canada which now have no such services. I hope there will be an early proclamation of the new Broadcasting Act and that this will be one of the things which will be accelerated. I believe it is important that this be done and that there be no unnecessary duplication of effort and expenditure on the part of the people in the C.A.T.V. field with that of the people in the so-called conventional broadcasting field. I hope we will be given some information either from the parliamentary secretary or from the Secretary of State, if she returns before these items pass, concerning the intention of the government when the new Broadcasting Act becomes effective.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I listened earlier with great interest to the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain). He reminded me of a San Francisco hippie throwing flowers. For the past two years, he has been going around throwing bouquets right and left. I think that is somewhat the part played by the hon. member for Trois-Rivières in the house. He keeps the vase behind the curtain and when the opportunity presents itself, he does not hesitate to throw it, especially when the person involved is absent. Besides, the hon. member for Ville-neuve (Mr. Caouette) knows something about