

proportional representation and I am sure that no greater derogations from that rule than we are now practicing will ever be envisaged.

[English]

Honourable senators, as a last item, I note the government intends to recommend the broadcasting by radio and television of the proceedings of the House of Commons and of its committees. I, of course, do not intend to comment on the wishes and the procedures of the other place, although I should expect the Senate will have a say to the extent that this will apply to joint committees.

I cannot withhold the reflection that this may open an additional field to the culture and practice of what has been described by Clay Whitehead, the director of the White House office of telecommunications policy, as "ideological plug-o-la."

This is a virus which need not be imported into Canada. We have for some time nurtured a strain of our own which needs no hybridization.

It has been well documented in a detailed study of the election coverage by our television networks on the late evening news during the last three weeks of the campaign, by Dean Joseph Scanlon of the Carleton University School of Journalism. Dean Scanlon stated on the CBC program "Commentary":

Since the election, both Robert Stanfield and Pierre Trudeau have been claiming the right to govern this country. Frankly, they're both wrong. On the basis of CBC and CTV late evening news—for the last three weeks before the election—there is little doubt that the NDP and David Lewis won the election. Lewis . . . got more on camera time than his opponents, better play and, in my opinion, more favourable treatment.

• (2200)

And this did not end by any means with the election itself. I leave it to honourable senators to guess who in

living colour and via satellite from London immediately followed Her Majesty the Queen on "The National" on Christmas night.

The CBC must have great faith in the durability of this Parliament and in order to adhere to its guidelines probably plans to give this spot to Mr. Caouette in 1973, and have Messrs. Stanfield and Trudeau share 1974 and 1975.

Today on the national AM radio news at 1 p.m. the leading item I thought was the announcement of the latest unemployment figures. Who was the one national political leader to come on live immediately after the commentary? Again, guess who? It seems to me that if I were in King David's shoes I would be terribly afraid that this was already being overdone, and I would be afraid of what would happen.

The broadcasting of parliamentary debates may be worth the attempt, but it seems to me we should be extremely careful that in so doing we are not fashioning tools that will be used to filter and manipulate in biased fashion the channels of communications between the population itself and its political leaders.

[Translation]

The Speech from the Throne is therefore proving to be an excellent working document. With a few exceptions, the proposals set forth therein have equal priority and I am sure the population will not put up with any parliamentary games prior to the carrying out of the work at hand in its entirety.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I second the motion of Senator Hicks for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

[English]

On motion of Honourable Senator Flynn, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.