

Radio and Television

C.B.C. authorities should, more than ever, consider the moral aspect of radio and television broadcasts. The familial character of television should exclude any objectionable production...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but I must remind him that he is getting away from the text of the amendment which concerns the regulation and financing of the C.B.C. The question of the quality of programs does not come within the purview of the proposed amendment. I would ask the hon. member to stick closer to the text of the amendment.

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the point of order, I am of the opinion that the quality of the programs comes within the purview of the amendment, since the production of programs is related to the financing of the C.B.C. In fact, some fees which are being paid to certain writers and performers form an important part of the financing of radio and television, and believe that the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon) should be allowed to carry on his remarks in this connection.

Mr. Pigeon: I thank the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Caron) for siding with me.

The family character of television should exclude from the T.V. screen anything that would be objectionable in a respectable living room, such as the vulgarity of cabarets and night clubs, scanty attire, lascivious or suggestive dancing, scenes of violence, robberies, plays that make a mockery of marital faithfulness and parental authority.

The C.B.C. should keep a closer supervision over the choice of television theater programs and feature films in which family and marriage are not always respected.

The C.B.C. should set strict standards in the matter of modesty in dress on the part of dancers and performers, as well as with respect to the choice of ballet themes.

The C.B.C. should also enlist the co-operation of qualified advisers, and authorities especially those familiar with the various fields of human endeavour.

Why not get them together in several advisory committees that would meet periodically, for instance once a month, to criticize the programs concerning their own specialty and to make suggestions to authorities and directors. Those committees would also be useful in stimulating opinion—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! I am sorry to interrupt again the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm but, after considering more closely the amendment now before us and the comments made by the hon. member for Hull, I feel I should again remind the house that this amendment now under study deals precisely, as it is well said, with "regulation" and "financing", that is to say the regulation and financing of radio and television programs, but not with their moral quality.

If the hon. member wants to discuss the financing of these programs, I think he would be perfectly in order. But the moral quality of broadcasts can hardly be dealt with in relation to the amendment before me. I would ask hon. members to try to adhere as much as possible to the terms of the amendment during the discussion of this bill.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, may I make a remark to the point of order?

As a matter of fact we have been discussing the Massey report all evening, also the report of the Fowler Royal Commission and the Aird report. Now, the Fowler report, of which I have a copy before me now, deals in several chapters with the very matter the hon. member is now discussing. I therefore think that the amendment as well as the sub-amendment without specifically referring to the remarks just made by the hon. member, are germane to the present discussion. I submit this with all due deference and respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would like to point out to the hon. members that I did not say that the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm was out of order; I just asked him to adhere as closely as possible to the terms of the amendment. Indeed, if you read the amendment and the sub-amendment thereto you will see that they more particularly concern the regulations and financing of the C.B.C. by the government.

It is now my duty under clause 2 of standing order 59 to ask hon. members to deviate as little as possible from matters concerning the amendment now under discussion by the house. I therefore once more ask the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, and honourable representatives, to speak closely to the matter before the house.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your remarks. I intend to depart somewhat from the matter of C.B.C. financing and to say