

Interim Supply

seduction and illicit love. My hon. colleague from Grey-Bruce went into some detail on these yesterday so I will not repeat his remarks. Thousands of television viewers across the country were alarmed and disappointed to think that the C.B.C. with its great influence would give time to such revolting plays, which not only displayed bad taste but could be instrumental in promoting immorality in our young people.

This sordidness has gone beyond the limit and should be discontinued at once; because we cannot continue to sow such vulgarity without reaping the demoralizing reward. There is plenty of good material that could be used which would be an inspiration to Canadian family life. There is an abundance of clean, informative, constructive and entertaining program material available to the C.B.C. which would assist parents in getting their children on good moral foundations and by which they, the C.B.C., could make a really creditable contribution to our way of life. The C.B.C. can be a nation builder.

Our young people are the strength of this country and we must demand quality in all ingredients that go into their physical, moral, spiritual and intellectual make-up. The C.B.C. can contribute much to the last three of these. The Canadian people deserve value for the \$86 million C.B.C. operation.

Mr. Peters: I had not intended to speak about the C.B.C. but, having listened to some of the comments which have been made, there is another side to the picture. At one time I asked the producer of a show which I considered to be way out why this kind of program was broadcast, and I think his answer is one which all hon. members should consider. He explained to me that because the C.B.C. was such a large organization and served large numbers of people in widely scattered areas of Canada, both the intelligentsia and others, there were programs which should be shown on a limited basis—probably 15 minutes a week—which were in the high class drama category, the sort of thing probably I would not understand. I agree it would be unfortunate if the only music the C.B.C. played was that of Don Messer, even though I happen to like it. If that were the case it might promote a nation of maritimers, which might not be in the interests of the development of this nation. However, I personally would give it a very high rating. My friends who consider themselves of the intelligentsia say that this is very low-brow entertainment. I think it is

20220—604

true that many of the programs shown on the C.B.C. must reflect the interests of all the people in Canada. If we look at some of the programs which have been referred to and to which objection has been taken these are the types of programs which may meet the cravings of some of the more highly educated people in our society who feel that this sort of drama is necessary and is a good thing.

I believe the C.B.C. has done an excellent job. Those members who feel otherwise should question the farming organizations who appear before our committees. Surprisingly enough one category to whom the C.B.C. has brought television and radio coverage is our rural population. They have used this as their total means of communication in order to keep in touch with many other parts of the world. In some instances there is no daily newspaper these people can buy. Many do not have even a weekly newspaper, but depend on the C.B.C. radio and television service to bring them the events of the world, whether they be in the form of drama, other entertainment or news broadcasts. As I say, I think the C.B.C. has done a very good job in this regard although there are many other areas in Canada which still require coverage.

Some will say that the C.B.C. does provide a type of service to a very large percentage of the Canadian population. That is not true when we consider total coverage as far as television and radio are concerned. I think those people who believe in an extension of this type of thing should be sympathetic toward that part of our population which depends entirely on the C.B.C. or government sponsored services for their entire communications media.

The C.B.C. is a very large organization. A communications system in this country must of necessity be a large system. In Canada the C.B.C. operates both radio and television stations, and for the most part private service is provided in the form of networks to large communities, and through affiliates to the smaller communities. There is competition in this field in many sections of our country.

Mr. Chairman, there is one other communications medium which I think should be kept separate from the two I mentioned, and I refer to radio Canada. Radio Canada is providing broadcasting services to one segment of our population which has not been supplied this service by private enterprise.

In comparing various services provided by these three systems we must consider the field of news, entertainment, culture and