

Senator Prowse: The camel's nose is already in the tent.

The Chairman: Do any of the Senators have any other questions? We have other witnesses.

Mr. Fortier: I would like to know what members of the Association are going to do during the blackout periods that CRTC is recommending.

Mr. Boucher: It is merely a recommendation. I am glad you said that. Certainly the CRTC indicated to us they are quite prepared to sit down and discuss the possibilities.

Mr. Fortier: What are you going to tell them when you sit down with Mr. Juneau and Mr. Boyle?

Mr. Boucher: I think we haven't said very much yet but I think it is being said for us—that people will revert back to antennas. This is our first opinion, of course, and if we were the only voice and the first one to say it it would be different but it is a general opinion.

Mr. Chaston: I would like to throw in a supplementary answer to Senator McElman's last point.

The CRTC concern, of course, and the broadcasters' concern is not so much with the transmitter per se. That is just a piece of electronic equipment. It is the broadcasting, the programmes they prepare and the advertising they put in it.

The CATV is no threat to that programming, which is their business. Really a transmitter in the broadcasting sense is almost a necessary evil.

The broadcaster has studios and film equipment and telecine equipment and vast resources for producing programmes. It all comes funnelling through one odd bit of equipment which is different from anything else they use, electronically different in every way.

It is very simple because it is the only way they can get all the work and advertising in the programmes out to the viewer.

Now replacing the transmitter with a piece of copper wire, the CATV or whatever the system, is a different way of transmitting the signal. The CATV industry may replace some transmitters but it certainly would not replace what is behind those transmitters, that is the broadcasting industry.

Senator McElman: I appreciate that fully as long as we are talking about the urban audience.

Mr. Chaston: I think Mr. Boucher qualified his answer that possible replacement of the transmitter itself only could take place provided the copper wire was reaching the same audience, and that is another matter which would have to be looked at at that time.

Senator McElman: Of course CRTC is looking at the non-urban audience in its considerations here.

Mr. Chaston: Sure.

Senator McElman: What you say is totally valid if we are looking only at the urban audiences.

Mr. Chaston: All I have said is transmitters *might* be replaced but certainly it would not be a threat to the broadcast industry if transmitters were replaced.

Senator McElman: And if you could provide the same audiences.

Mr. Chaston: Yes.

The Chairman: Are there any remaining questions that anyone has.

Mr. Fortier: I realize this is covered in the brief but, Mr. Boucher, could you tell us succinctly what the members of the Association have to say against the common carriers, or for them, for that matter.

The Chairman: This is dealt with at some length in the brief.

Mr. Boucher: That is a very broad area and we could speak for hours on that. I think the remarks we have made pretty well sum up what the general membership thinks and I think I should leave it at that.

The Chairman: Do you want to sum them up for the Committee?

Mr. Boucher: I have one supplementary answer and that is another limitation which arises when we are talking about the future. It is a very real illustration of one of the stumbling blocks. It is the fact of the huge investment that has been made by the Canadian public in television receivers which can only pick up 12 channels; and this is a huge investment in black and white sets and is today, what is restricting growth in colour TV sales.