

Canadian Broadcasting Act

official opposition has expressed his views in this respect at page 894 of *Hansard*. He believes it to be the duty of the C.B.C. to provide mainly cultural, educational and historical features. That is something with which I disagree entirely. If the C.B.C. were to adhere strictly to that concept, then we would find that its programs were hopelessly circumscribed. Instead I maintain that the duty of the C.B.C. is to entertain, to inform, to instruct and, above all, to see that every legitimate point of view is expressed and that every reasonable taste, also, has some expression on the air. Here I should like to quote again from the minority report of the report of the British broadcasting committee where it says:

The duty of the broadcasting authority is not to please the greatest possible number of listeners but to keep open the channel for communication of ideas of all kinds, popular and unpopular.

That does not receive unanimous support in this house, I am afraid. The other day the hon. member for Peace River spoke about red and pink propaganda on the C.B.C. We have heard this every year, yet when it comes down to the point we cannot get the charge documented at any time. I remember last year in the radio committee when the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) said there were too many leftists in the C.B.C. When he was challenged to name them he could think of only two out of the many commentators who spoke over that network. I am quite certain that if he had a little more time he might have thought of three, but the fact remains that those who were alleged to be tinged with red and pink propaganda numbered only two. It was noticeable that when the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low), and I repeat this, made this charge he did not mention any names.

Mr. Blackmore: He could have done so very easily.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): If there are those who believe there are red and pink propagandists on the C.B.C. they should get up and mention them.

Mr. Blackmore: Will the hon. member point to a single Social Creditor on the C.B.C.?

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): Nobody would accuse the Social Crediters of being red or pink.

Mr. Blackmore: They have the right to express their opinions.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): The hon. member knows as well as I that under the present set-up the Social Credit party is allowed a certain amount of free time on the C.B.C., as are the other parties.

Mr. Blackmore: I am talking about membership on the board of the C.B.C.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): I do not think one's political views are any criterion for membership on the board of the C.B.C. I have no idea what the political beliefs of the members of the board are. I am not interested in them. I want to see the most competent people we have in Canada on the board regardless of their political beliefs.

Mr. Blackmore: I want to see every type of idea put forward with the same amount of emphasis.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): I would be delighted to see every idea in Canada put forward with emphasis. Perhaps the hon. member will permit me to carry on with my speech. In some quarters the C.B.C. is blamed for not permitting television to appear in Canada, of course run by the private stations. We are told by these same people that it is essential that radio be kept distinctly Canadian in its outlook and content, and the same must apply to television. Last December I was in Vancouver and visited a good friend of mine; at least I hope he is. This man is a private radio station operator. He was giving me the usual hymn of hate of the private broadcasters against the C.B.C. for not permitting television. I put this proposition up to him. I asked him whether he could afford to produce the programs which would be necessary if he were given the right to go ahead with television, and he admitted that he could not. I asked him where he would hope to get the programs and he said, "We will pipe them in from the United States". Of course that is what the private interests are prepared to do despite all this talk about Canadian content in programs. In connection with that I might again quote Mr. Siepman:

The expressed intentions of advertisers are confusingly varied. They range from the gay and daring to the sober and moralistic. With reference to sex appeal, Mr. Griffin (vice-president and group copy head, J. Walter Thompson Co.) gave as a good general rule to try to get away with as much as you can.

We do not want that sort of radio or that sort of television in this country. I maintain that the C.B.C. was correct in not permitting private stations to go ahead and fill the Canadian air with United States programs. The hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) suggested earlier that there was still a great difference of opinion among hon. members of this house. As a matter of fact, when you reduce the differences that exist to naked reality you can see that they amount to nothing more or less than the decision as to who is going to control the minds of men. That is the fight which is