

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

was at a time when considerable interest was being voiced by northern Ontario members concerning the operation of CN trains 7 and 8. In fact, I recall very well appearing on the "late show" on January 18, 1971, to respond to the very forceful and sincere appeal made by the hon. member for Thunder Bay (Mr. Penner).

There was expressed that evening a very real sense of frustration, which I tried with all seriousness to allay. While not everyone was satisfied with the outcome of that adjournment proceeding, it did give the hon. member a chance to express his views and an excellent opportunity to myself to emphasize and clarify the guidelines to which the Canadian Transport Commission must adhere under the Railway Act. Subsequent to these representations the Canadian Transport Commission directed the CNR to set up a new rail-liner passenger service in northern Ontario and I understand that this new service has received fairly favourable response from the people living between Capreol and Nakina.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Selkirk on February 12 asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) if he would make direct representation to the CNR in an effort to persuade it to reverse that decision. The decision in question was one that the Canadian Transport Commission had made, and it was required to do so under the act. If the hon. member has received any complaints, I can assure him that the CTC stands ready to consider any instance where people have not been accommodated on CN trains Nos. 1 and 2 since the retirement on February 1 of trains 7 and 8.

Also, the hon. member may wish to take advantage later this month of the presence of CNR officials before the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications. The president of the Canadian Transport Commission has already given evidence on its operations to that committee, and I do not know why the hon. member did not appear to make his comments there. The hon. member has raised some further points in his presentation this evening which I will be only too pleased to refer to the Minister of Transport for consideration.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—MID-CANADA  
PROGRAM ON "WEEKEND"—ACTION TO RECTIFY  
ALLEGED DISHONEST PRESENTATION

**Mr. Jean-R. Roy (Timmins):** Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 14, the CBC "Weekend" television show aired a program called "Mid-Canada Documentary." Such a public affairs program could be expected to be objective, factual and reflecting a true situation. But oh no, not with the CBC! It was another of those periodic attempts by the "Weekend" producers to increase viewer ratings by creating impact.

The distortion, the negative approach, the dishonesty of the presentation, the imbalance of reason and judgment were just unbelievable—interviews with half-sloshed participants, with a welfare case who would rather receive welfare than go on a course at \$110 a week, researchers who spent a large portion of their time in local bars, researchers who were looking specifically for poor people and finding some as they would anywhere, looking

[Mr. Duquet.]

specifically for drunks and finding some as they would anywhere, for old houses—not the new ones, which they avoided—for failing businesses, not finding any and forgetting the prosperous ones. These were the ingredients that went into the program.

Was the researcher paid for his barroom time? Was he indeed paid overtime? I am told that many knowledgeable and interested citizens were interviewed and completely discarded as being too positive. What about the newspaper editor? What about the trust company officer? What about the Chamber of Commerce manager? What about the businessmen? They were all interviewed, but not two seconds of those interviews were shown on the program. Is it recognized as bad policy for the CBC to get an objective picture in these circumstances? Is this typical CBC policy? And what is the motive and the purpose of these distortions? Why was the local CBC affiliate not interviewed? Why not the local politicians? Why not the local member of Parliament? Do we know too many facts, and are we too objective to fit into the CBC plans for controversy, or the plans of their young researcher who arrived in Canada just a short time but full of wisdom about northern Ontario and, of course, with a large capacity for booze consumption.

Mr. Speaker, the people who live in our area do so, not because they were unfortunate enough to be born there, as was stupidly indicated, but by free choice. We want the quality of life that is ours, the bounties of nature that are there, the ease of family life which we enjoy, the human values which have been destroyed in the large cities but strongly persist in our areas, in addition to the less important adequate physical facilities that are available.

I immediately sent a telegram to Mr. Pierre Juneau, chairman of the CRTC, as I am sure did many other viewers. It read as follows:

Weekend program Mid-Canada terrible distortion of actual situation Timmins Kapuskasing. Please prevent showing on Radio Canada Tuesday and investigate motives, methods and sources of information.

The answer I received was as follows:

Thank you for your telegram re Mid-Canada program. The commission is most concerned by suggestion that it should intervene to censor a public affairs program. The commission is of the view that blocking presentation of individual programs by the CRTC represents very extreme measure. The normal procedure of the CRTC in case of bona fide specific complaints re possible unfair and dishonest biases in broadcasting programs is to request the tapes and after judicial consideration take necessary steps to maintain principles of the Broadcasting Act re balanced opportunity for expression of differing views. Recommend you contact the station concerned to express your views and if program in fact in your view is biased, you may wish to consider requesting from the station an opportunity to express your views in reply.

Pierre Juneau, chairman, Canadian Radio Television Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the program in question was an absurd distortion of the situation and needs very extreme measures to rectify the wrong that has been done. I would strongly suggest and urge that the CRTC review the tapes and ascertain the facts and that after their judicial consideration they take the necessary steps to maintain