

I just paid my cable fee last week. It went up quite dramatically. We are all concerned about this subject, whether it is paying cable fees, the kind of programming we get, the CBC, or whatever. Everybody has an opinion on it and they are important opinions.

Mr. Mayer: When do you have time to watch TV?

Mr. Waddell: The Hon. Member asks when I have time to watch TV. That is a good question. I watch it diligently when I can.

When this Bill first came forward it was widely criticized by almost every group except the cable industry which benefits from this Bill. It was especially criticized by the CRTC and the CBC.

The Minister has made some changes in the Bill and I congratulate her for that. The Minister and I have had our differences. We debate hard in this House but, as I have said many times, I have always had a great deal of respect for her and sometimes she has respect for me.

However, with respect to this Bill I feel that instead of getting hit with a two-by-four we are now getting hit by a little stick. In my view the Minister still has some way to go in order to make this a Bill that we, at least on this side of the House, could support. We have moved a number of amendments to this Bill and we will see what happens as the amendments are introduced. It is not our intention to delay this Bill abnormally or to prolong it, but to give it the proper debate and to work through the amendments.

I have concerns in a number of areas. I do not have time to mention them now, but I will return to them when we get the ruling on Clause 3 of the Bill. Some of the concerns that we will be approaching in the debate are the North Americanization, as I see it, of our broadcasting system and what, if anything, this Bill does to stop that. Another is the increased role of cable operators, which I have called the big winners under this Bill, and whether or not they should have the ability to broadcast as well as to transmit, and whether that is too much of a conflict and too much of a monopoly.

The other matters are, of course, the regulations with respect to private television to legislate, so far as that is possible, some quality programming from Canadian private broadcasters who are making progress in that area but in the past have been lax, I think, in producing good quality Canadian programming.

● (1720)

We also have concerns about educational broadcasters and other definitions in the Bill, as well as the role of the CBC. While that is not specifically in the Bill, it refers to the matters of cut-backs in Canadian broadcasting.

Finally, we have a concern about how the Bill fits into the free trade deal. I have told the Minister in the House before that there has been a retreat in terms of film policy and

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publishing policy because that is what the Americans wanted. That was part of the trade-off for the Free Trade Agreement.

In conclusion, let me indicate to the Minister that we are making real progress with the Bill and hope that we can make further progress in achieving a stronger Bill which will protect Canadian content and ensure that our air waves are for Canadians.

I think all Members will agree that our objective in the condominium debate and other debates about this Bill is to give Canadians a choice. However, part of that choice is to see high quality Canadian programming. That is essential for the survival of this country. We will be going through the clauses of the Bill with that in mind.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—MOTIONS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before I call for the question on Motion No. 7, I have received written notice from the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Attewell) that he is unable to move his motion during the hour of Private Members' Business on Thursday, September 15, 1988.

This is a motion designated "votable" by the Standing Committee on Private Members' Business, so requires consent of the House for it to be moved to the bottom of the order of precedence for debate. Is there consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Accordingly, I am directing the table Officers to drop that item of business to the bottom of the order of precedence.

Since notice will be removed, and it has not been possible to arrange for other Private Members' Business to take place tomorrow, the hour for Private Members' Business will be cancelled and, pursuant to Standing Order 39, the House will continue with the business before it prior to that hour.

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BROADCASTING ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-136, an Act respecting broadcasting and to amend certain Acts in relation thereto and in relation to radiocommunication, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mrs. Finestone (p. 19253).

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few comments on this motion. The alphanumeric