

on our state-owned networks, programs which condone crime, violence and all types of immorality.

I endorse the words of the hon. member for Chapleau and I earnestly ask the C.B.C. to revise its philosophy and, particularly, its desire to offer Canadian taxpayers programs and newscasts that they have a right to expect from a corporation supported and financed by themselves.

The hon. member for Trois-Rivières limited his remarks to one specific point, namely the right every candidate to an election should have to speak over the air regardless of his financial means. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, like the member for Trois-Rivières, I am not ready to give a diploma for competence and smartness to a candidate, just because he has a fat pocket-book or because his election is financed by abundant election funds, often, of doubtful origin.

I support whole-heartedly the attitude which spurred the hon. member for Trois-Rivières into restating the question appropriately, giving it the hall-mark of the most elementary equity and social justice.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what are we to think of the omnipotence of the Board of Broadcast Governors? At this point, I feel it might be very useful to mention or to refer to what Mr. Frédéric Côté, assistant legal adviser to the B.B.G. had to say.

This is the article published in *Le Soleil* on October 13, 1966 under the title:

The B.B.G. is accused of hostility towards French Canadians.

The Board of Broadcast Governors was strongly attacked yesterday when a lawyer which it employed published a letter of resignation in which he criticizes the intellectual dishonesty and attitude towards French Canadians he says he found there.

Mr. Frederic Côté, barrister, native of Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario, was hired by the B.B.G. on November 1, 1965 as assistant legal adviser. Since December last, he had been the only lawyer working for the B.B.G., the chief legal adviser having resigned.

During all this period, Mr. Côté says that he single-handedly did all the work in the office, both in French and in English.

Mr. Côté admits that part of the reason for his resignation is the fact that he has not been appointed chief legal adviser, but he maintains that "this was only the straw that broke the camel's back".

In his letter to the B.B.G., he declares that he is resigning because he "can no longer stand" the following things:

1. "The anti-French Canadian atmosphere and attitude of the B.B.G.

2. "The behaviour, attitude, decisions as well as the indecision of the B.B.G. with regard to myself as an employee.

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3. "The ignorance, the lack of interest and the unfairness of the B.B.G. as far as French Canadians and the province of Quebec are concerned.

4. "The fact that the province of Quebec has really no representation on the B.B.G.

5. "The intellectual dishonesty, if not the unlawful acts, of the B.B.G.

6. "The serious offence committed by the B.B.G. against natural justice."

Mr. Speaker, here is an example which confirms the charge made by Mr. Frédéric Côté. Radio-FM-Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean Ltée is the name of a business firm established in my constituency for the purpose of operating an FM radio station.

On April 27 last, two shareholders of this company appeared before the B.B.G. and applied for a licence or a permit to operate this kind of a radio station. During the same hearing, the B.B.G. heard an indictment of the local station manager against the issuance of this licence; in this case, the spokesman for those opposing the issuance of a new license found nothing better to do than to downgrade the Saguenay country and its inhabitants, on the grounds that, because of the precarious economy of this area designated as economically depressed, there was an exodus of people going to try their luck in big cities such as Quebec or Montreal.

I would not be surprised if this kill-joy had the gall to insinuate that an FM radio station would prove uneconomical, due to the low cultural and intellectual level of the Saguenay people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to protest vigorously, and to brand and stigmatize, by my contempt and disgust, such a false argument advanced by men who are supposed to help, like and publicize their area and their community and present them in a true light on the air.

As a result of this fierce suggestion, tainted with the lure of easy gains and profits, the B.B.G. rendered its verdict: Refusal.

The reasons ascribed are shown in the report. It reads:

In the estimation of the board, this application was not well prepared.

I would interpret this to mean: People of the Saguenay and Lake St. John area, you are incompetent.

Mr. Speaker, are all the competent people in their place? I doubt it very much, because I imagine that certain of these so-called competent people owe the key positions they hold to well-lined purses or strong political connections.