

unacceptable, one must address this valid concern in this report. If indeed, the cable companies have only an altruistic rationale for pursuing this proposal, then I feel comfortable in suggesting that approval to the proposal be given only on the proviso that a "cap" be established for any increase in monthly subscription fees in future extensions of this agreement between Cableco and CBC. Given past requests by cable operations and decisions by the CRTC, it is unacceptable to leave any future pricing increases within their mandate without specific provisos. To suggest a "cap" for the extension of the agreement would be rather arbitrary at this point in time but any increases beyond the minimal should be deemed unacceptable. For illustrative purposes only, perhaps a fifteen cent "cap" per month for the second five year term of the agreement would be in order, unless extraordinary circumstances dictate a higher increase. But these extraordinary circumstances should be documented and authenticated by the Monitoring Committee.

The above is proffered after reading extensive documentation of recent rate increases for cable users and their subsequent controversy. Enhanced coverage of Canada's Parliament should not be a consideration replete with rancor. This can be achieved only by assessing a minimal monthly charge to cable subscribers.

The increase in subscriber fees for specialty programming for capital costs, for increased cost of living, for American royalty payments, for increased federal tax has become a major irritant to Canadians. Thus any increase beyond the absolute minimum should be discouraged.

If the above two issues are addressed, the perception that this proposal is back-door privatizing could be dismissed.

In conclusion, I believe the proposal has considerable merit. Canadians do have a right to know but should have that right at no or very little cost.

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