

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

adjourned in the early summer as to why this government was resisting private television broadcasting. It was explained that we did not want the kind of television broadcasts they have in the United States and that the purpose of the system envisaged for Canada was to protect our people from that kind of television broadcasting.

For that reason I was surprised to learn a little later that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation had established a very expensive microwave relay system to Buffalo so that it could pipe in the very United States television broadcasts against which we were told they were going to protect us. Actually we are not getting those broadcasts because the United States producers refuse to give bargain rates to the C.B.C. for their television broadcasts. Consequently the source of great Canadian programs in Buffalo is still dry and the microwave relay is not operating although it has been erected at considerable expense.

The restrictive practices of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation with regard to television, Mr. Speaker, have denied to most of the people of Canada the opportunity to see television for some years to come. We still have the extraordinary situation that taxpayers in distant parts of Canada are being called upon to pay taxes so that the people of Toronto and Montreal can enjoy television, if they in fact do. Moreover, there is also the fact that even with the new places where television will be broadcast it will leave fairly limited fields covered by the publicly-owned system, and again we will find that the distant taxpayers will be paying their money to provide television for five large cities in Canada.

If private television operators had been permitted to proceed through the experimental stages these places would all have been receiving television by now without a single cent of expense on the part of Canadian taxpayers. I submit that this is a good time for the government to review its course since it has indicated the close relationship that exists between the government and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on this subject.

In answer to the claim that there is great need for reduced taxation, particularly with respect to income taxes on small income—and this relates to television as to all other public expenditures—we are told that never was the average of wages so high as it is today in Canada. That may be true, but it is what the government leaves in the hands of the wage earner in the form of savings that counts and not merely the figure of total earnings. The present level of taxation, direct and indirect, is creating widespread hardship and discouraging initiative and

thrift in a great many cases in Canada today.

I now wish to refer to the conference which is to take place in London later this month. I hope that members of the house will be given some information as to the intentions of the government with respect to that conference. It may well be that it will be one of the most important meetings of its kind that has ever taken place. From statements that have been made in Canada as well as in the capitals of the other nations of the commonwealth it is clear that trade and the possibility of expanding commonwealth trade is to be one of the subjects for discussion. The speech from the throne gives no indication of the course which the government proposes to follow. I agree, without any hesitation, that it might well be argued by the government that except for the definite statement that it is the intention of the government to do everything possible to revive and expand trade within the commonwealth, there could be reasons for not making any definite statement at this time in anticipation of the conference itself. I think that argument might well appeal under ordinary circumstances. The fact remains, however, that definite statements have been made by members of the government and also by anonymous spokesmen, and those statements have been fully reported in the press.

Canada's negative intentions at the coming conference have been stated on numerous occasions. They were stated by a member of the government recently in a speech in New York. The spokesman for the government on that occasion, announcing policy in the United States, did not however indicate what the Canadian government intends to do. He informed the people of the United States, and through the press the people of Canada, that the government was not going to do certain definite things. There have been repeated reports also that Canada is going to insist upon Britain taking certain steps to improve their position before Canada can make any effective arrangements with them. In fact, statements have appeared in the press within the last few days which indicate an attitude which hardly seems appropriate at this time when we are seeking arrangements which will make it possible to sell our agricultural and other food surpluses in Britain. This is not just a case of Britain finding out how to buy; it is a case of our finding out how to sell; and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) has been very careful to emphasize that on different occasions recently.

I am sure that Canadians would be indignant, and I cannot imagine anyone would be more indignant than members of this government, if anyone in Britain presumed to tell