

*Radio and Television*

suggested that the present Canadian Broadcasting Corporation be abolished and replaced by a new board of broadcast governors which would have responsibility for all public and private broadcasting in Canada. There would also be established a corporation to be known as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation which would have powers and responsibilities similar to those of the present C.B.C.

Is this the best method of regulating and supervising broadcasting in this country? The Fowler royal commission thought so after 14 months of study and investigation. What does the government think?

We have a good broadcasting system in this country. The joining together in one system of public and private ownership suits Canada and serves Canadians well. The concept is a good one. We would be wise to keep it very much as it is but improve and strengthen it. So thought the commission, Mr. Speaker. What is the government going to do about it?

(Translation):

**Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm):** Mr. Speaker, in regard to the C.B.C., I should like to refer to one particular point, that of programs. However, may I point out in passing that it is quite logical that Canada should not be entirely deprived of its national radio and television network. The government must continue to subsidize the C.B.C. as long as we expect the corporation to discharge those responsibilities that private enterprise is incapable of assuming, i.e. serving the people of Canada in areas of the country where sources of revenue are clearly inadequate. On the other hand it would also be logical to put an end to this undesirable type of monopoly and, in so doing, give the private stations a chance to share in the creation of a Canadian radio and television service.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) to give strict orders to the proper authorities that close supervision be exercised on television programs of all types, and to censor them if required in the interest of morality. Certain programs are most distressing in their effects on the hearts and minds of people.

The influence of television on the subconscious cannot be exaggerated. It especially affects young people at the most impressionable stage of their development. It reaches into homes, thus affecting the family in a most intimate way. All this goes to show how necessary it is to provide strict control over television broadcasts so that they may not have permanent effects on hearts and minds.

There could be nothing more pernicious or destructive of the spiritual strength of the nation, than this repeated spectacle, in the very heart of the family circle, and before

so many innocent young eyes of impressive scenes of pleasure, of passion and of sin that can permanently upset and destroy all that had been done to make youngsters upstanding, good and well educated from an individual or social point of view. Television should be a medium of wholesome entertainment for people, while at the same time and in all circumstances contributing to their education and moral uplift.

Not only should television refrain from evil but it should be a positive means of education. Against the advocacy of sovereign art and of freedom of thought and expression must be invoked the superior and inalienable rights of conscience, of the soul exalted to supernatural life. I urge the Minister of National Revenue to bring pressure to bear on the authorities of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in order that they apply severe censorship on their programs:

1. To oppose objectionable programs by demanding the application of the law against licentiousness in literary and artistic productions.

2. To foster the production of programs of high moral and aesthetic value.

I hope that programs dealing with murder, gangsters, firearms, and crime will disappear from our television screens. Those programs are damaging to our young people.

Let the C.B.C. do away with smutty stories, and with daring costumes worn by some performers. They too often forget that art by no means calls for scanty attire.

It is not Christian to picture a depraved, corrupt humanity, without hope or nobility of soul.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Could the hon. member read a bit more slowly?

**Mr. Pigeon:** I shall be pleased to comply with the hon. member's request.

Let people stand indicted who dare maintain that a certain form of broadcasting can be exploited, developed and exalted, even though grievously offensive to morals, as long as it can claim artistic or technical value.

I point out, sir, that I have some notes before me; I prefer consulting them to talking nonsense as some hon. members of the opposition are doing.

Mr. Speaker, television should be at the service of truth, honestly inform the public, without overlooking the moral aspect of any news broadcast to the public, provide culture as well as entertainment to viewers, and carefully train them not so much that they may authorize themselves to see immoral shows but so that they may judge what is presented to them and learn to profit from what they see and hear.