

Supply—Secretary of State

We all agree there should be no political interference with the C.B.C. from this institution, but likewise I do not think there should be any political interference in the public affairs programs from within the C.B.C. itself, and I am not at all convinced that does not take place. There should be a very careful scrutiny made of it, and some arrangement arrived at to see that it does not take place. I am not going to say any more at the present time.

I have some very well documented remarks which I intend to deliver at a later date, but I hope between now and then the officials of the C.B.C., and those responsible, will take a very careful look at the selection of some of the political commentators, and also at the presentation of the news, a matter which was brought up by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam the other evening, so that there will not be a twisting or slanting of the news, such as has been going on in an accelerated manner recently. I hope a word to the wise will be sufficient, and that it will not be necessary to bring this up again.

Mr. Herridge: I just simply wish to make a brief comment, a passing reference to a regional difficulty, and one suggestion. I am very happy in representing a riding that is very fond of the C.B.C. generally. My trouble is getting enough C.B.C. service to various isolated points in the riding. I am one who appreciates the C.B.C. and believes in defending its independence. I always admired the former minister of national revenue, the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings, when he defended the independence of the C.B.C., sometimes under pressure from members of his own party. I shall never forget his rising on two or three occasions to defend the independence of the C.B.C.

In the area around Kootenay lake there are large numbers of people, relatively large for an isolated area, who are anxious to get C.B.C. service through a satellite station. They have repeatedly taken up this matter, and so have a lot of people in the Castlegar area, and they are disturbed over the delay in providing a satellite station. I understand this delay is occasioned by some difficulty with the provincial government in obtaining the site required for the station. There have also been representations recently from the Fruitvale district and the Montrose district, all wanting a satellite station, and I mention this to show the rate of demand for C.B.C. service in the area I represent.

Many of these people do not understand why they cannot get service immediately. This is what I rise to suggest. I think the C.B.C. does fall down in some respects with its public

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

relations. Like the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Regan), I think sometimes its public relations are poor, not only with respect to programming and things of that type, but also with respect to policies and the priorities for the installation of satellite stations.

I suggest the C.B.C. would be well advised to publish their policy with respect to the installation of satellite stations and the priority given to population, density of population and things of that sort, so that persons will understand they are not being discriminated against, that their case is being considered; and when it comes up for review they will know the order of priority in which it will receive attention. This is something that should be considered in regard to the delay in providing services to the people in the isolated districts. I do think they should receive every consideration, because these people are producing revenue for this country in the work they are carrying out, and they are making a contribution to our economy. The C.B.C. possibly means a great deal more to them than it does to people in the larger centres who have other fields of entertainment, news broadcasts and other facilities.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member for Kootenay West I represent a constituency where people who have not the advantages of the C.B.C. service are clamouring for extension. However, I shall not attempt to go into the details of that question at this hour. I sought to catch your eye, Mr. Chairman, because the hon. member for York-Humber raised the question as to whether we were exporting any broadcasting stations from Canada. I would like to inform him and the committee generally that when I was in Malaysia this fall I heard very high praise indeed for the work being done by some of our C.B.C. technicians in assisting the Malaysians to establish their television system. This system, I might also point out, is being modelled very closely on that of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

[Translation]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate somewhat to make certain comments on the estimates now before us, but I cannot leave unchallenged the statement made by the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott) as well as those made both in this house and outside by the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan).

Furthermore, certain remarks made by the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) lead me to put certain facts on the official record.

The hon. member for Danforth deplored the fact that French speaking Canadians in