

*Non-Canadian Publications*

compete in areas that are far from the receiving signal of the U.S. stations, by a policy that encourages cable companies to bring these stations into these areas. I have already referred to the city of Regina which is now awaiting the implementation of a licence for a cable operation. There is the city of St. John's, Newfoundland. Cable is going into Edmonton, hundreds of miles away from the nearest station.

The cable industry in this country is a big industry—a \$120 million industry. It functions solely on the importation of United States signals. Without these U.S. signals there is really no justification for this substantial expenditure of Canadian funds for the cable industry. One certainly cannot say very much for the community channels which are a condition of licensing of every cable operation in the country. The programming is abysmally bad. It is so terrible that these community channels have a viewer audience of practically zero. They exist because they have to as a condition of licensing.

I say the cable policy of this government is bad; it makes no sense. I have the greatest respect for the present minister, a woman who has a background in broadcasting, a woman who understands the broadcasting industry in this country by virtue of her experience as a professional broadcaster. I hope she will bring in policies that will help undo the very serious damage that has been done as a result of the Juneau policies on cable in this country. More particularly, I hope this House will come to its collective sense.

We were able to make a special case for *Reader's Digest* because the people of Canada want it and it made sense to make a special case in this instance. I believe we should make some kind of provision to allow *Time* magazine to continue to provide us with the Canadian section, even with all its shortcomings, because we will continue to get *Time* anyway. We made a special case for *Reader's Digest*, and I submit that the same arguments are just as compelling, logical and rational for a special case for KVOS, a good corporate citizen of this country that is providing good television to the city of Vancouver.

**Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak in support of the subamendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. McKenzie) to remove the government objective regarding CRTC involvement in this revenue deal. I endorse the remarks just made by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath). He said that if you can make a special case for *Reader's Digest*, there is every reason in the world to make a special case for KVOS.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Holt:** I also endorse the remarks about the cable position and the commercial deletion question. It can be said, in the words of the underworld, that cable is a fence for the CRTC to sell stolen goods. It is totally immoral. That is just an aside from the points I would like to make.

I heard the Minister of Communications (Mrs. Sauvé), her parliamentary secretary and the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) speak on this subject. The CRTC were recently in the west. They were ready to take four American channels off the air. We were briefed ahead of time

[Mr. McGrath.]

that this would happen. The members from British Columbia were told, not consulted. They do not have to account to the public! We were told on November 25 and on December 16 that four American channels were coming off the air. They have great power, power that I never suspected parliament or my country would give to them. It is time that people here learned that we in the west are different. KVOS is different. People here should stop planning for us as though we do not exist.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Holt:** Possibly we should develop a western nationalism so that these people would learn about the west. Maybe we should narrow ourselves off and show what greatness we have. We are not Ontario, nor are we Quebec.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Holt:** Nor are we so immature that we require our cultural supplies, initiatives and dictates to come from that quarter. We have different geography, different sociology, different life-styles, tremendous untapped talent that is bypassed by the Toronto and Montreal cultural clique, and we have great strength and quality that easterners neither understand nor accept. They simply pass through the west. If we have an Olympic swimmer, *Maclean's* does a token article. It just does a wrap-up type story. It names one or two westerners, one or two far easterners, and calls itself national. Perhaps it is envy, and with that the attendant resentment at our great qualities and great blessings. Perhaps the great physical divider, the Rockies, has isolated us from them and them from us. That is very unfortunate. I believe in a federal nation, a nation undivided. In many ways, we have greater compatibility in the north-south direction than we have with the chauvinistic and parochial east, that harbinger of narrow nationalism that extends about as far as Bloor Street in Toronto.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs. Holt:** People here do not realize that the west is different.

I will now speak about KVOS, the CRTC, which is primarily eastern-oriented, and my colleagues whom I really respect. I respect the minister very much for her background in the media. However, she may not know what KVOS means and gives to us in the west. KVOS-TV has been a good corporate citizen since 1955, not quite as long as *Reader's Digest* and *Time*. They pay their taxes in Canada and have been in Canadian business since that time. Substantial amounts of their profits have been reinvested in Canada. Canada, has employed Canadians in the production industry from 1955 to the present. There are a few of my colleagues who say they are getting hot-to-trot to do something now that they are in trouble. However, they have been producing. They tried to get production going. They have won international awards and sent a product produced by Canadians all around the world. They have been doing this since 1955.

In 1971, KVOS wanted to start a huge production studio, but the CRTC turned them down. Is the CRTC the government of Canada? This company has subsidized western Canada's largest film and animation company both in