

Interim Supply

C.B.C. could come here and give their side of the picture. Perhaps there are very definite reasons for the programs which have been aired by the C.B.C.; but until their side of the picture is given, hon. members have a right to information as to the C.B.C.'s policy in this regard. Hon. members on the government side of the house have in one or two instances tried to explain why the policy of the C.B.C. should not be subject to examination; they have said that the C.B.C. should have an absolutely free hand. If the C.B.C. were to undertake the censoring of their own programs, which I am sure they do, then perhaps we would not have any of this dissatisfaction. But we want to know to what degree they do censor their own programs.

I think that most of the dissatisfaction to which I have referred arises out of the times we are living in now. We live in an era we find hard to understand; an era of irresponsibility to a degree among our young people; an era where justice and laws are challenged; an era where adults are not sure that their teachings to their children are going to be understood or obeyed. This is an era of the greatest unease which perhaps this world has ever seen. I am sure that much of the criticism of some of the programming of the C.B.C. in its television and radio transmissions, as well as matter appearing in magazines, periodicals and other lines of communication, arises out of this fear. We feel that these channels of communication and the teachings of adults today are not checking this trend in our youth who seem, in the opinion of the people to whom I have talked, always trying to keep just one step ahead regardless of which direction they are going. I think this is what is alarming our people today.

Is this state of affairs going to lead us to a greater breakdown in morals? Is it going to lead to a greater breakdown in our sense of responsibility? Are we paying taxes to this huge corporation which is running along without control in order to lead our young people in this direction? That is the fear which is expressed.

Hence, Mr. Chairman, I sincerely feel that if a broadcasting committee could be set up it would have an opportunity, not of censoring but of questioning the men with the responsibility for programming. They could be asked what they feel is right, what they feel the nation needs and how programs should be presented in the future. In this way I think there could be more of a sense of confidence in this huge medium.

[Mr. Danforth.]

The people are alarmed at what they feel is this sense of irresponsibility. They are alarmed at statements to the effect that there is a communist infiltration in the C.B.C. In this day and age when something is unexplainable and not understood by the people they think communist forces are at work. We want to know as members of parliament what is the C.B.C.'s answer to this charge and how they are monitoring their entire set-up to guard against being the tool of such a movement in Canada.

Another matter bothering the people of the country is this. Last year the C.B.C. spent \$85 million. This year their budget is \$100 million. This means only one thing to the people: an enormous sum of money. People cannot picture it mentally. They have never seen such a sum piled up or counted. They have no idea what is \$1 million, let alone \$100 million; they have no idea how high it would be or how wide or deep. To them it is just a tremendous sum of money, and they want to know what is being done with that money. Is this crown corporation building a huge bureau, a huge edifice, to be used like an empire? The people see on reading various financial statements that a few years ago the C.B.C. operated with \$20 million. Now they require \$100 million. When people walk down the street and see the beautiful big building just completed here in Ottawa for the C.B.C. they want to know whether it was necessary that it be built. They want to know whether we have to spend millions of dollars here in Ottawa when people elsewhere in the country have no radio or television coverage; and I think they should have the answer to this question. Certainly these huge edifices in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal would not have been built unless they were needed; but the C.B.C. should have the opportunity of explaining why they were necessary and what is their program for the future.

When we had the broadcasting corporation before the committee previously we began to learn what a tremendous entity it was and what a complex and technical nature it comprised. I have heard it suggested in this house that the broadcasting committee should be divided into subcommittees, each one to deal with a particular facet of our broadcasting picture. I think that is very advisable because it has a complicated structure. I have heard it argued that we are not technicians and cannot supervise programming. It is true we know nothing of the technical aspects of broadcasting or television, and we do not