

television development and your Committee recommends that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation proceed as soon as practicable with the extension of television coverage."

The Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation had begun a study of the possibilities of developing publicly-owned television production centres in Toronto and Montreal as early as 1946; and in 1948 the Board issued a statement of its preliminary policy on television, and stated that it would proceed with the publicly-owned facilities as soon as adequate financing could be arranged. In March 1949, the Government of Canada announced an interim plan for the development of television, pending the report and recommendations of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, which was then being established.

Under the interim plan, the CBC was instructed to proceed with the establishment of centres for the production of Canadian television programmes in the country's two largest cities, Toronto and Montreal, with their associated transmitters. CBC was also to provide a service of programmes for broadcasting by other television stations to be established in the future.

To launch Canadian television, Parliament approved three loans to the CBC, totalling \$8,000,000. This money has served to construct the Toronto and Montreal centres, hire and train the staff, buy the necessary technical facilities and pay for test productions, and to provide funds for the first seven months of service. It also provides for a start on a third television station in the capital city of Canada, Ottawa, and for the use of a network link which will connect the first three Canadian television stations together.

Regular programme service was begun from the Toronto and Montreal centres early in September 1952, after several delays caused by steel and equipment shortages. Both stations began with a programme service of about three hours a night, the Toronto station programming in English, and the Montreal station dividing its time about half and half between programmes in English and in French, in order to serve the English-speaking, bilingual, and French-speaking population of Canada's largest city, (the world's second-largest French-speaking city). It is planned to add another television transmitter for Montreal, so that separate English and French programming can be carried on.

CBC television programmes have covered a wide range of interests; popular variety shows and light music and comedy programmes interspersed with panel discussions, news magazines, a variety of film programmes, special features for children, and noteworthy drama periods including a 90-minute play once a week. Both production centres now in operation are equipped with two studios, scenery shops, film equipment, and all the associated technical gear for the production of Canadian television programmes. Each centre is equipped also with a mobile unit; a specially-equipped van staffed by a crew of ten and with three television cameras and a transmitter for beaming "outside broadcasts" back to the studios for regular transmission.

RP/A

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