

Supply—C.B.C.

behalf of private television interests in this house, and of being paid by private interests to do so. I say now that those remarks were either sponsored or directed by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, and I hope the hon. gentlemen who now listen to me do not concur in those thoughts, that were not only vicious but most unfair and untrue.

Some time ago, Mr. Chairman, I presented a petition to this house. I cannot go into the matter of that petition because I would be out of order. However, I think you will allow me to say that 13,333 people in my riding, representing something over 50,000 people, asked me to present it to this house. The reason for that petition was that the 80,000 people in Burnaby believe they are important enough in the national picture to be allowed to have what they want. They want a television station in my riding. You can say it is not important in the over-all national policy of the C.B.C., but 80,000 people, the second largest populated area in British Columbia, are important. It is my duty, as best I can with my limited abilities, to present the plea of the people of my riding to the minister and to the C.B.C. for the public utility they want.

It has been said by the C.C.F., and I think quite rightly, that there is money to be made in private television when it comes to Canada; that is outside of Ontario, may I say. There is a lot of money in a private television station. I have not yet heard a good argument to the effect that merely because someone who is going into business is going to make a lot of money, we should not let him go into that business. We have, as the hon. member for Prince Albert said this afternoon, a United States television station in Bellingham, Washington. I am not sure that he realized all the details concerning this station, but at least he mentioned it. This station in Bellingham is taking over \$400,000 in advertising from the province of British Columbia every year. I think perhaps the figure now is 50 per cent more than that, but I want to be sure of what I am saying.

Lately the government of the United States has said that this station can now increase its power six times. The Bellingham station, which started out as a two-bit operation, has made enough money out of Canadian advertising so that within the next few days they will have a station comparable to the power of CBUT, Vancouver. As the C.B.C. knows, this station was constructed by technicians on the ground out of home-made parts, yet they have now made enough money to establish themselves as a \$2.5 million corporation. They have made it from

British Columbia money, because if you watch television in Burnaby, as I do when I am home, you will see that 90 per cent of the programs coming over that Washington station are sponsored by industry either in the Vancouver riding or in my own riding.

A lot has been said during this session about the United States having control of Canadian business. Here is one business about which we can do something if someone in the C.B.C. will allow us to do it. It can be said, and the C.B.C. have argued this with me in committee, that in the final analysis it is the Minister of Transport who lays down the regulations regarding the acceptance of applications for licenses. This does not fool me, and I am quite sure it does not fool any member of the television committee. The C.B.C. decides the final attitude and advises the Minister of Transport or, in this case, the Minister of National Revenue, what should be done. I know of no gentleman for whom I feel more sympathy than the Minister of National Revenue when he has to present these arguments to the house, because no man with common sense could really believe what he has to say. The C.B.C. is supposed to advise him on C.B.C. matters. I am quite sure the minister would know, as I do, that some of the advice they give him is something children might understand, but certainly not members of parliament.

Here we are faced with a situation in British Columbia, and elsewhere in Canada, where we are allowing Canadian money to go down to the United States to sell Canadian goods to Canadians. My people in Burnaby want a television station. I do not care who gets the television station, but I want the C.B.C. and the government of Canada to say to my people, "Send in your applications for a licence and we will look over the whole works; we will pick out the best one." I want nothing whatever to do with it. There is a million and a half dollars available in Burnaby to put up a private television station. There is no reason to prevent that being done, except the fact that the C.B.C. have advised the government there should be a single coverage policy. What single coverage policy? We have two Seattle stations, one Tacoma station and one Bellingham station being beamed into Vancouver every five minutes of the day. Ninety per cent of our television advertising is now going to the United States, to these stations.

Let us be fair to Canadians. Let us be fair to my constituency. We are not asking the people of the United States to take shares in these stations. We are not saying that the United States is going to control this station.