

Telesat Canada Act

Wondering whether there was ground for concern, I looked at financial statements of Power Corporation of Canada Limited and discovered that it is a holding and investment company of the closed-end type. Investments are made primarily in Canadian equity securities, with holdings being concentrated in relatively few companies which have the potential to increase significantly in value. The copy of the financial statement in my hand contains the following statement:

Equity investments in smaller companies, or companies in the earlier stages of development, having the potential to achieve above average earnings growth, are made through subsidiary, Power Corp. Developments Ltd.

I ask the minister, does he realize the value of the system he is turning over to private corporations? These corporations want to grow. Should the people of Canada not have a share in operating the facility to be set up? Should they not share in the growth that private corporations envisage? The financial statement of Power Corporation continues with these words:

Investments in companies outside of Canada are made through subsidiary, Power Corp. International Ltd., and will be confined to countries with a sound economic and political climate.

Further on the financial review says:

Power Corp., in conjunction with Niagara Television Ltd., has placed before the Board of Broadcast Governors a proposal for establishment of a new television network. This would be known as National Television Network, and would operate stations across Canada to be joined by means of two satellites to be operated by a second company, Canadian Satellite Corp.

The document in my hand suggests that both the private companies just referred to will offer shares to the public. The cost of establishing the network is estimated to be \$75 million.

May I now turn to the financial statement of Southam Press Limited. Southam Press controls quite a number of companies. One wonders why the minister does not insist that a crown corporation alone shall control the network to be set up. Of course, we all know about Southam Press. The question to be asked is, who is behind Southam Press? It seems that Niagara Television Limited of Hamilton is a subsidiary of Southam Press Limited. The statement in my hand lists a number of companies controlled by Southam Press, and perhaps I might take a little time to list them.

At the top of the list is Greater Winnipeg Cablevision Limited which provides cable television in Winnipeg. Southam Press

acquired a 50 per cent interest in that company late in 1967. Next is Trans-Canada Expositions Ltd which is 50 per cent owned by Southam. The company was formed, in conjunction with MacLean-Hunter Limited, to produce certain trade shows. Then Calgary Broadcasting Company Limited is listed. It operates radio station CFAC in Calgary. Next Edmonton Broadcasting Company Limited is listed. It operates radio station CJCA in Edmonton. Southam Press holds a part interest, the rest being held by Selkirk Holdings Limited. I have already mentioned Niagara Television Limited which operates television station CHCH-TV in Hamilton. Southam Press holds a direct 25 per cent interest there and also has a 19 per cent interest in Wentworth Radio Broadcasting Limited which operates radio station CKOC in Hamilton. The latter company also owns a 25 per cent interest in Niagara Television Limited, a subsidiary of Southam Press.

May I now turn to the statement of Selkirk Holdings Limited. It says:

An agreement in principle has been reached with Selkirk Holdings Ltd., in which the company holds a minority interest, to consolidate, where possible, their broadcasting interests. A first application has gone before the Canadian Radio-Television Commission in connection with the shareholdings of Wentworth Radio and Niagara Television in Hamilton. If approved, this application will be a step toward the separation of ownership between Southam and Selkirk in these two properties.

I have brought these matters to the minister's attention in an effort to induce him to accept our amendment. The Canadian people ought to be the owners of this communications network. There is still time for the minister to reconsider his position. The bill is designed to create a system to be utilized in conjunction with national broadcasting networks. The new system, we hope, will unite the people of Canada from coast to coast. They will be proud to own such facilities. On the other hand, if 80 individuals are to control this facility our people will not be proud. I therefore suggest to the minister that there is still time for him to reconsider his position. Perhaps he could think about it in the lunch hour. We think he ought to agree to the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Waterloo.

I now wish to comment about some other facets of the bill. Editorial writers and other contributors to newspapers have expressed concern about the arrogance displayed by the officials of Trans-Canada Telephone System. I think other hon. members have alluded to that arrogance during this debate. We are