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SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 7
 (First Session, 1968)

C.B.C. BROADCASTING SERVICE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

CBC BROADCASTING SERVICE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

At its 35th session in November, 1967, Council requested information on plans for the extension and improvement of the CBC service in the Northwest Territories, particularly with regard to plans for the installation of low-power radio stations in Eastern Arctic settlements, the "Frontier Coverage T.V. Package" and the possibility of increasing the present output of facilities and of installing one or more 20,000 watt radio stations in the Territories.

On the basis of study and experience, the CBC has come to the conclusion that the most practicable and effective way of providing radio service in the North is by means of unmanned low-power relay transmitters (LPRTs) connected by telephone network facilities to a program center maintaining close touch with the communities served and with the "outside".

Neither the Trans-Canada Telephone System nor Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Telecommunications can provide network facilities in the Central and Eastern Arctic. If such facilities were available, the CBC would consider the establishment there of a network of LPRTs similar to the Mackenzie Network fed from Yellowknife.

The Mackenzie Network is to be extended by the installation of LPRTs at Fort Providence and Fort Good Hope this summer. Similar installations at Wrigley, Fort Norman and Resolution will be considered by the Board of Directors at their meeting in April.

The installation of 20,000 watt stations operating on frequencies below the broadcast band is considered impracticable by CBC engineers. In order to be efficient, low-frequency stations require high antennas and good ground systems, neither of which is practicable in the North. In addition, a great amount of power is required for high-power stations and their operation would be too costly for the results obtained. The CBC's policy has been to serve by shortwave those communities out of reach of the broadcast band stations. However, it recognizes that the present northern shortwave service is inadequate, both in the number of its programs and in the strength of its signal.

Plans are about to be implemented to increase the power of the Sackville shortwave transmitter from its present 50,000 to 250,000 watts and to build a new antenna system designed for Northern Service transmissions. These developments should improve the shortwave signal received in the North so that it can compete more effectively with signals from other parts of the world. The atmospheric phenomenon associated with auroral disturbances frequently makes it more difficult to transmit a shortwave signal from Southern to Northern Canada than it does to send one across the North Pole.

Those communities which are too small to justify a CBC manned station or which are beyond the reach of CBC radio networks can keep in touch with the "outside" through shortwave service. However, both the CBC and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development are aware that shortwave cannot take the place of locally or regionally programmed standard band stations. Consequently, an ad hoc committee representing the CBC, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Transport, has been studying the possibility of establishing locally owned and operated low-power FM stations at isolated communities in the North. If the committee's recommendations are approved by the Government, there should be a considerable improvement in radio service in the Northwest Territories.

With regard to the Frontier Television Package, the CBC has applied to the Department of Transport for permission to build stations at Inuvik and Pine Point. The applications will be heard at the February 6th meeting of the Board of Broadcast Governors. These two stations will be of higher power than CFYK-TV Yellowknife. The station at Inuvik will also serve Aklavik and the Pine Point station will cover the south shore of Great Slave Lake, including Hay River and Fort Resolution. Other stations in the North are planned and will

be undertaken as funds become available and the necessary engineering work can begin.

The CBC assures Council that it appreciates the need for improved and extended radio and television service throughout the Territories, and that it is doing all it can to overcome the technical, engineering, financial and manpower difficulties that currently limit its efforts.