

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 50TH SESSION

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TOM BUTTERS, MEMBER WESTERN ARCTIC NWT COUNCIL, INUVIK, NWT. (CBC
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ANDREW COWAN HO

THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR TELEGRAM OF OCT 2
ABOUT REPETITIVE TV PROGRAMMING RECEIVED IN THE WESTERN ARCTIC
VIA ANIK. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THIS DOUBLE EXPOSURE.
IT RESULTS FROM THE USE OF ANIK FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF CBC NETWORK
PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTH AS WELL AS IN THE NORTH AND FOR THE MOVEMENT
OF NEWS MATERIAL ACROSS CANADA. AT CERTAIN FIXED TIMES DAILY
ONE OF THE TWO ENGLISH LANGUAGE SATELLITE CHANNELS IS USED FOR
THE GATHERING OF NEWS STORIES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR THE
NETWORK NEWS PROGRAMS. THIS NEWS GATHERING IS NOT INTENDED FOR

USE OF THE SATELLITE. DURING THESE PERIODS VIEWERS OF CHANNEL C, WHICH NORMALLY SERVES THE WESTERN ARCTIC, ARE SWITCHED TO CHANNEL B WHICH SERVES THE EASTERN ARCTIC. AT THE END OF THE NEWS GATHERING PERIODS WESTERN ARCTIC VIEWERS ARE RETURNED TO THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS ON CHANNEL C. THE RESULT IS THAT THE VIEWERS ON CHANNEL C WHICH WAS SWITCHED OVER SEE THE PROGRAM TWICE - ONCE DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THEY WERE SWITCHED TO CHANNEL B AND AGAIN DURING RECEPTION OF THEIR NORMAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE. THIS REPETITION OF PROGRAMS, SOME NINETY MINUTES IN THE WESTERN ARCTIC AND 60 MINUTES IN THE EAST, IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE NORTHERN SERVICE CAN SECURE PRECEDENCE IN THE USE OF THE TWO ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHANNELS OVER OTHER CBC PROGRAM SERVICES, INCLUDING TV NEWS, OR UNTIL CBC ACQUIRES AN ADDITIONAL SATELLITE CHANNEL. THE LATTER WOULD ALLOW GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN SATELLITE TRANSMISSION - BUT AT SOME CONSIDERABLE EXTRA COST - AND WOULD PERMIT PROGRAMS TO BE RELAYED TO THE NORTH WITHOUT INTERRUPTION OR INTERFERENCE AT HOURS SUITABLE FOR EACH TIME ZONE. AT THE MOMENT THE ALTERNATIVE TO EXPOSING VIEWERS TO PROGRAM REPEATS IS TO EITHER SUBJECT THEM TO THE INTERNAL TRAFFICKING OF NEWS ITEMS OR TO A BLANK SCREEN. WE BELIEVE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE HAVE MADE THE BEST CHOICE OF THE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES

MARCEL OUIMET

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