

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

It is not up to the Minister of Communications to set up labour-management meetings at the CBC. I do not believe that this is the job of the Minister of Communications, and I have too much respect for CBC authorities to interfere in their daily activities which have nothing to do with the duties of the Minister.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister.

We are all aware that the Fédération des francophones hors Québec and many other groups are concerned about the cut-backs, especially as they affect regional programming. Can the Minister assure this House that the Halifax station, about which many people are concerned, will go forward and will open on schedule. With that in mind my colleague from Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) spoke earlier about the speeding-up policy of the CBC to serve French-speaking groups of over 500 people outside Quebec? This policy has already been established. I agree with what you said earlier about internal consultations within the CBC, but I still believe that a policy statement by the Minister would be in order to tell French-speaking people outside Quebec, especially in the Halifax region, that the programming will begin as expected.

Mr. Masse: I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I am convinced that the management of CBC have taken into account all the comments put forward both by the Federation and by some Hon. Members here in this House, in their analysis and implementation of the cut-backs dictated by the present economic situation which we have inherited from the previous Government.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: We have now taken more time than that taken by the statements of all Parties. I will recognize the two Members whom I have seen rising for some time who have not yet had a chance to ask a question, and that will be the end of it. The Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille).

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister certainly knows of the number of studies that have been made and of the great concern we have about the fragile situation which faces our Canadian authors, writers, artists and all those who work in the various kinds of drama and art in the country. He knows of the fragile condition that is facing this entire group in the face of the new satellite dishes and so on. I do not need to remind him of the very sensitive and fragile situation which exists and of the need for us to be able to develop and maintain a sense of Canadian culture.

Mr. Speaker: I have tried to explain to Members that we are in fact running over the length of the time of the original statements. Does the Member have a question?

Mr. de Corneille: Yes, Mr. Speaker; I was simply indicating the gravity of the situation. In light of the cuts that are being

made, can the Minister say that the philosophy, position and direction of the Government will ensure that this fragile situation will not be accidentally destroyed by these tremendous cuts?

[Translation]

Mr. Masse: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the Minister is well aware of this situation and that the CBC, in accordance with its responsibilities and parliamentary mandate, has done its best to guarantee that the creative activities of the CBC mentioned by the Hon. Member will not be curtailed.

[English]

Miss Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I have just one brief question for the Minister. I am not sure that the Minister realizes the depth of concern among the people who depend on the CBC for their casual earnings, which are often low over the course of a year. I am talking about actors, musicians and writers.

Will the Minister move quickly to tell the House and the country exactly where programs will be cut so that those people who will lose opportunities of employment will know where they stand and can try to make other plans for their careers?

[Translation]

Mr. Masse: Mr. Speaker, it would certainly not be appropriate for the Minister of Communications to reply to such a question until such time as the chairman of the board of the CBC has referred to the board the management proposals and the board has endorsed these proposals; it is then that they will be made public by the Chairman of the Board. At that time, I am convinced that the Hon. Member will find sufficient evidence in the proposal or the public report of Mr. Juneau to realize that her concerns were shared and taken into account by the CBC.

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● (1240)

[English]

INVESTMENT CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-15, an Act respecting investment in Canada.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.