

Oral Questions

At a time when the government regulator, the CRTC, is looking at the issue of violence in television, how can the minister explain his own broadcaster airing a film that has many scenes that most Canadians could only describe as disgusting and tasteless?

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, surely on the basis of one scene in one film the member would not want us to unleash a new age of censorship or abandon the Canadian film industry. The CBC is protected under the Broadcasting Act which allows it to have journalistic freedom.

The hon. member might consider separating the two issues: on the one, censorship; on the other, our investment in the film sector and the cultural sector which is a thriving industry that results in about 600,000 jobs in this country.

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[Translation]

REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

The no committee says that Quebec must have full control over those sectors which fall under its jurisdiction. The federal government goes against that position by continuing to interfere, with its spending power, in the manpower, education and health sectors.

Does the Prime Minister recognize that Ottawa is using its spending authority not only to interfere in fields of provincial jurisdiction, but also to impose national standards that do not reflect Quebec's priorities?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, first, the claims made by the member opposite are absolutely false. Second, the real issue is that, today, the member for Roberval talked about a country. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition talked about a Quebec citizenship and said that the Canadian passport would no longer be used by Quebecers. Today, he changed his tune. The burden of proof rests with those who want to split the country.

● (1150)

I ask them: Do they want to remain Canadians or not? If not, they should tell the truth to Quebecers before October 30.

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, how can the Deputy Prime Minister expect to be taken seriously, considering that the establishment of the human resources investment fund, through which Ottawa will interfere even more in the manpower training sector, amounts to a blatant rejection of the position held by the no committee?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the government which is refusing to negotiate on manpower issues is the Quebec pequiste government, not the federal government. The real issue on October 30 is the one raised this morning by the member for Roberval, and also by the Leader of the Opposition, who said that Quebecers would no longer use the Canadian passport. This will be the real issue on October 30. We are prepared to negotiate with the provincial governments. We are not in favour of status quo. There is only one government in Canada using the status quo as an excuse: it is the separatist and pequiste government in Quebec.

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FRANCOPHONES OUTSIDE QUEBEC

Mr. Mauril Bélanger (Ottawa—Vanier, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the francophones of Ontario and other Canadian provinces feel insulted and revolted by the disdainful remarks made at their expense earlier this week by the separatist member for Rimouski—Témiscouata.

Would the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs be so kind as to inform the House of the status of the francophone communities within Canada and to indicate the key measures taken by our government to support their development?

Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, not only has the hon. member for Rimouski—Témiscouata shown her ignorance of, and probably also her disdain for, francophones outside Quebec, but this very morning the regional delegate of the Parti Québécois in my area had the nerve to make the statement that francophones outside Quebec are a colonized people.

This is an area in which the federal government has always assumed its responsibilities far better than the Parti Québécois. Allow me to offer this quote: "The government of Quebec has not done enough, even the PQ has not done enough. The federal government has certainly done far more than Quebec has. I am prepared to admit that. But I think that all of us, in Ottawa and in Quebec, ought to promote francophones outside Quebec". The author of that quote is Lucien Bouchard himself.

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[English]

JUSTICE

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General of Canada. Oresto Panacui and Jean-Guy Dipietro were convicted and sentenced to jail for armed robbery, kidnapping and attempted murder. They were released and the minister is well aware that Panacui has already reoffended.