

Non-Canadian Publications

● (2130)

The government's position is that *Time*, in order to qualify as a Canadian publication, would need, I believe the minister said, to be 75 per cent Canadian owned. For *Time* this would obviously mean ceasing to exist in Canada. The government would be totally remaking the magazine so that it would be impossible for it to continue in the form which makes it acceptable to us. This is a type of government censorship, which, I believe, we should view very seriously. We are already exposed to many extremist voices in this country, and what the government is doing by this legislation is making us more susceptible to them.

Rather than giving the privilege of easy access to publications with a worldwide viewpoint, this legislation is simply opening the door for a narrower kind of idealogical Canadian journalism which is already too common in this country. I am not opposed to Canadian publications or Canadian journalism, but what I would like to see is some kind of publications offering something worthwhile to Canadians, publications that can stand on their own two feet rather than continually leaning on the government.

One fact that is frequently overlooked is that *Time* and *Reader's Digest* have not had special advantages. They have competed in the Canadian marketplace like any other publication. The way this issue has been presented by the government, many Canadian people believe that advertisers in *Time* and *Reader's Digest* have had tax advantages which advertisers in Canadian publications did not have and this is simply not the case.

What is happening under this legislation is that both *Time* and *Reader's Digest* are being placed in a position of tremendous competitive disadvantage in the hope, as expressed by the government, that advertisers will decide to take their advertising out of these publications and place it in fully Canadian owned publications. This is, of course, a doubtful assumption, but it is exactly what the government is planning Canadians will do. The minister has stated this in his speech. In his list of what he wanted to have done, he said:

Second, we want the diversion of a proportion of the advertising revenue now earned by *Time* and *Reader's Digest* to Canadian-owned consumer magazines.

How can you legislate culture? I wish the minister would answer that question. Some time ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said that we should keep the government out of the bedrooms of this nation. I suggest that we should keep the minister out of the publication houses of this nation.

Mr. Faulkner: What about the bedrooms?

Mr. Crouse: I will leave him to decide that, Mr. Speaker. This type of manipulation of the press, I believe, we should view with the utmost seriousness. The free movement of the press should be one of our most cherished possessions and it should be jealously guarded and defended. Under this legislation Canadians in a very real sense are being deprived of the freedom of choice in a manner which is much more reminiscent to me of a totalitarian regime than of something that could happen in a truly open democracy.

[Mr. Crouse.]

Mr. Faulkner: This is not like me.

Mr. Crouse: The minister had not yet heard what I will say. I am only getting to the theme of this speech. The fact that the Canadian government would even entertain the thought of introducing this type of legislation is abhorrent, and it causes me a great deal of concern.

I cannot help but look for a deeper meaning behind this legislation aside from the reasons given by the Secretary of State. In fact it is this type of legislation that brings into question the government's entire external affairs policy. We seem to have set our ship of state on a direct course—whether or not the Liberals like this—of anti-Americanism, of which this legislation is only a very small part.

I say this for very serious reasons. I say this because of the views expressed by our Prime Minister when he gave a press conference in Moscow on May 20, 1971, when he stated:

But from our own point of view, it is quite clear that we have a great deal to learn from the Soviet Union. It is one of the two super powers in the world today; one of the poles of influence, not only a military, but an economic, technological, cultural pole of great significance, and it is moreover, Canada's neighbour across the Arctic seas.

I suppose we do have a great deal to learn from the Soviet Union, but the strict controls and strong regulations laid down by Marxist Communism are not something that I wish to see imported into Canada.

Unless I have been misinformed, it is not possible under the Communist regime to travel freely, to criticize or publicly condemn the government, and freedom of speech as we know it simply does not exist. With all their weaknesses, the freedoms that I mentioned are the freedoms of democracy and we must be ever on guard if these freedoms which so many of us cherish are not to be taken away.

Later on in the same interview the Prime Minister, speaking about Canadian-U.S. relations, is reported as saying:

Canada has increasingly found it important to diversify its channels of communication because of the overpowering presence of the United States of America, and that is reflected in a growing consciousness amongst Canadians of the danger to our national identity from a cultural, economic and perhaps even military point of view.

The question of the United States militarily dominating Canada is ridiculous in the extreme and one that, I submit as a Canadian, should never have been raised in Moscow. However, when I look at this legislation I cannot help but wonder whether the fine hand of the Prime Minister did not fashion this bill. In view of his belief that Canada has found it increasingly important to diversify its channels of communication, is the Prime Minister worried about the truth of the articles in *Time* and *Reader's Digest*? Is the Prime Minister worried about the cultural impact of *Time* and *Reader's Digest* on the people of Canada? Are he and his government worried about the truth? Are the lights now starting to go out in Canada? These are the questions Canadians are asking in their letters, and these are the questions which require an answer from this government.

Mr. Faulkner: Nonsense!