Government Orders

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I seek the unanimous consent of the House to revert to Presenting Reports from Committees, and I think you will find that that consent exists.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it agreed? Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Agreed, and so ordered.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

STRIKING

FIFTY-SECOND REPORT OF STRIKING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the fifty-second report of the Striking Committee, pursuant to Standing Order 113(1). This report deals with the membership of a legislative committee. Upon presentation, such reports are deemed adopted.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]
FIFTY-THIRD REPORT OF STRIKING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): I also have the honour to present the fifty-third report of the striking committee which concerns the membership of the special committee on transport and if the House gives its consent, I move, seconded by the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell that the fifty-third report of the striking committee be concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it agreed? Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BROADCASTING ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-40, an act respecting broadcasting and to amend certain acts in relation thereto and in relation to radiocommunications,

as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee; and on Motions Nos. 8 and 10 of Mrs. Finestone (p.14956), and on Motion No. 9 of Mr. Waddell (p.14956).

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, in the cluster of motions that we are now debating is Motion No. 7, which can be summed up in one sentence. The amendment would require that not only the resources being used to create the programming be predominantly Canadian, but that the programming carried by broadcasters be predominantly Canadian.

What does that mean? It means that it is not only our desire to have producers, directors, writers, actors and actresses, all of them Canadian, but we also want to see in the final product a Canadian program on the screen. In other words, we want to see Canada on the screen. We want to see and experience our joys and wonders, our happiness, our controversies, our conflicts, our hurts, and our sorrows. We want to see literally the heart and soul of Canada on our television screens. That is what this proposed amendment is all about.

It is wonderful in terms of employment and creativity to have Canadians employed in the industry, and hopefully they are doing it for the Canadian market, not just for the world market, but Canadians have to feel that the final product is indeed Canadian and reflects their culture and their country.

That is why, for example, I hoped that the National Film Board would be written into Bill C-40, because as my colleague from Halifax said a few moments ago, the National Film Board is a treasure. It is one of the great Canadian institutions developed over a number of decades, and its product, its great works, should have access to our television screens, not only the CBC, but CTV and Global, all the independent stations. That is the way we should go. The National Film Board should be given that opportunity and access. Bill C-40 will not do anything for that.

It has been mentioned on a number of occasions how much we use radio and television in this country, how pervasive it is, how much we use it. For example, and this perhaps has already been pointed out, watching television is the number one leisure activity for Canadians. I am not sure whether that is a happy fact, but it is a fact. I can also tell you that we spend more than 24 hours each week, on average, in front of the television screen. I do not think that is a happy fact at all. Canadians would be better off with a more varied kind of leisure activity.