

*Government Orders*

Canadian control of communications within Canada, because that is the key issue.

Karl Deutsch, the great social scientist, once noted that the test of nationhood is that more communications take place within a country than between that country and another country. In other words, we communicate among ourselves. By this standard Canada is not doing very well. Three per cent of our film profits stay in Canada. Three per cent of video cassette sales are Canadian made. Ninety-seven per cent are foreign-made. Our own publishers own only 30 per cent of the Canadian market. Seventy-seven per cent of magazines sold in Canada are foreign. Eighty-five per cent of records and tapes sold in this country are foreign. No other country matches the distributing situation we have in this country.

The extent of this problem is best reflected on television. Of the 52,000 hours of English language television programming shown in Canada annually, less than 100 hours are Canadian drama. Of the 27,000 hours of French language television, only 630 hours are original Canadian drama. That is not a very good record.

Francophone teenagers watch foreign programming 50 per cent of the time. Anglophone teenagers watch it 80 per cent of the time. So our young people are being inundated with foreign programming.

I am not one who believes that you should put fences along borders. I believe in having an international outlook. I like to think of myself as a Canadian nationalist with a strong international outlook. I think most Canadians think of themselves that way but I think we are in real danger when we, and especially our young people, are so totally inundated with foreign programming.

There was a report by a committee called the Caplan-Sauvageau committee. Gerry Caplan from Toronto and Florian Sauvageau from Montreal produced an excellent report. I will give you one quote from that report. I admit that I have stolen it sometimes and not really given them the proper attribution, so I will do it now.

They said:

The reasons for this problem are clear: the public sector which must be the chief purveyor of quality Canadian programming is

inadequately scaled and funded; the private sector which should complement the public sector is not doing its job.

If I can summarize that, partly in my own words, the private sector is under-funded and the public sector is not doing its job.

This government has not made it easy to change that situation. I will give you some examples; the trade deal. If I can summarize the problem with the trade deal, culturally, it is this. The government says nothing in the trade deal affects culture. However, in the trade deal the Americans are entitled to take equivalent commercial, if you like, retaliation. So, if you are minister of culture and you want to bring in some legislation changing that situation with film distribution, for example, or tape distribution or magazine distribution, you want to bring in some Canadian nationalist legislation, then the Americans will retaliate against, say, west coast fishermen. Then the west coast fishermen will come to you as the minister and say, "Look, we are getting put out of a job. You had better not put in that strong nationalist legislation." That is how it is going to work and that is why the trade deal affects culture.

The second indication can be seen in the government's approach. The Prime Minister went to France for the bicentennial. What did he do? He just stole out of the Toronto airport a Jean Paul Riopelle masterpiece and gave it to the French. They thought we were crazy giving one of our masterpieces to them. They do not go into the Louvre and walk around the world giving away their masterpieces.

The Prime Minister's action was just, well, we can wheel and deal with our own cultural artifacts. I say that was a sham and a disgrace and it indicated the approach of the Prime Minister and the government.

There is another recent indication of what his government is doing. The Prime Minister met with Robert Maxwell, the international publisher. I bet that meeting was about lowering the requirement on foreign ownership of newspapers. I believe it is 20 per cent. I stand to be corrected, but I think you cannot have more than 20 per cent. I bet, and I predict that there is pressure from Maxwell and there will be changes by this Prime Minister to open up our newspapers.

The fourth indication is on film distribution. Jack Valente, the lobbyist for Hollywood, the friend of American presidents, has the power, if you can believe it, to get the Canadian government to withdraw a bill that it was going to present to the Canadian Parliament. What was