

professorship at UBC. He began writing for the Canada Council and for Canada, and set up the organization known, as I said, as Sono Nis Press. What happened? He agreed to do this work for \$15,000, but it was not long before the Canada Council said to him, "Look, we can't quite afford \$15,000; can you do it for \$11,000?" By that time he had relinquished his university appointment; but he agreed to do it for \$11,000.

There are lots of people in Canada who do not fully appreciate the fine arts, but who think \$11,000 is a lot of money. At any rate, the ex-professor said, "O.K. these being times of austerity, I will settle for \$11,000." So he settled for \$11,000, and tried to live on that sum. He wrote and published the kind of work that inspires Canadian poets, short story writers, and novelists. He has been an inspiration to scores of writers across Canada.

● (1750)

The first year goes by. He waits for the next grant. He is supposed to be a permanent writer under the Canada Council. The second year comes along. They say that \$11,000 is quite a bit, they do not know if they can do that, and would he settle for \$9,000? By this time, there is no way that he can go back to university. The austerity program has set in. Full professorships are not hired back because the salaries are too high. Therefore he must stick with Canada Council. They have him where they want him. When he comes back the next year, they say that \$9,000 is too much, and will he settle for \$7,000?

What happens to him as a poet also happens to him as a publisher. Canada Council says that what we need in this country is a fine arts publishing company that publishes books, poetry, short stories and so on. When he is asked to start that company, he agrees. The first year everything is kosher. The next year it is not quite so good. The next year one of his writers is publishing short articles in many of the learned fine arts journals across Canada and the United States, all of which have been recognized. In fact he has Canada Council grants to work on them.

This person then decides to compile all those articles and bind them in one volume. Canada Council says no, he cannot get the grant because the articles separately do not constitute quality. The young man decides to publish them anyway. After the book is published, the government by way of Canada Council says that this is representative literature and it would like to have it in our embassies around the world. They would like 200 copies, but would like 20 per cent off the full market price. Therefore you have a publishing company that is fully Canadian, staffed by Canadians, publishing in Canada, publishing Canadian work that is being cut off.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret I must interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired. He can continue only with unanimous consent. Is there consent to allow the hon. member to complete his remarks?

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp) is going to make a speech. If he is, we would like him to get across the floor first.

Non-Canadian Publications

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I was asking if there was unanimous consent to allow the hon. member to complete his remarks.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Friesen: I thank hon. members for allowing me to conclude my remarks. By the time I finish my speech they will be glad they gave consent.

Here is an example of a golden opportunity for the Secretary of State to demonstrate that he really is in favour not only of preserving the publishing industry, but the jobs and locations of hundreds of writers in Canada who are dependent upon the publishing industry for their livelihood. And he blew it. The Canada Council blew it. It makes me believe that the protestations that the Secretary of State made about wanting to preserve Canadian culture are totally spurious.

I come back to the point where I began. How do you go about preserving culture? Can you preserve a culture regardless of how identifiable it is, how Canadian it is, or how pure it is? Can you preserve that culture by building a wall around it, making sure that no one on the outside can contaminate it? Are we content to build a wall around Canada in the hope of having a purer Canadian culture?

I wish to quote from a speech made in the British House of Commons some time ago by a man who knew what it was to be threatened by censorship. He knew what it was to be threatened by this kind of control. He refused to bow the knee to this kind of intimidation. He said this:

I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary, but slinks out of the race where that immortal garland is to be run for, not without dust and heat. Assuredly we bring not innocence into the world, bring impurity much rather; that which purifies us is trial, and trial is by what is contrary. That virtue therefore which is but a youngling in the contemplation of evil, and knows not the utmost that vice promises to her followers, and rejects it, is but a blank virtue, not a pure; her whiteness is but an excremental whiteness;

We have a government that mouths a conviction of believing in free enterprise and, maybe to a lesser degree, interaction in the market place. It wants to believe in free enterprise and competition everywhere except in the field of arts, journalism, and publication. There competition is not good. Everywhere else members of the government believe in competition. They say that it is competition that makes our economy run well. However, when it comes to freedom of information, access to information, and style, they no longer believe in competition.

In no other field like in the field of writing and the arts is it so necessary to have a cross-fertilization of cultures in order to preserve, enhance, and make our own culture grow. We cannot allow this kind of legislation to restrict the thinking and artistic expression of the people of Canada through the field of journalism. I call it six o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.