

*Government Orders**[English]*

Let us talk about the economy to Canadians via our media. Let us make sure that they understand what it is that we are trying to do. It is necessary in a democracy to have different values, a different vision and different priorities. Let us explain that to Canadians so that they can participate more fully, more meaningfully in understanding economic development, in understanding what it means to have a deficit and in understanding the different kinds of approaches that various parties or governments would take in order to reduce that debt and deficit.

[Translation]

Let's talk about the constitutional crisis. Let's do it. It is quite obvious that at this very moment, there is a constitutional crisis in this country. Let's talk about it. There are people who have various points of view, and I think it is very important for us to be aware of these differences so that even if we do not agree, we can appreciate the fact that there is a problem. But there are ways of getting at the problem and untying all these knots.

[English]

Cultural misunderstanding is another objective. I mentioned it briefly, but I need to mention it again. I am alarmed and I am hurt in fact when I see people defining culture as dress, food and dance. I simplify perhaps a bit too much. I do not do it to denigrate. I would welcome to be challenged in an open debate on this question if anyone should like to do so.

Culture is more than dress, food and dance, music and feasting. It is how I see the world, you see the world, how I receive information, decode information and approach the solution of problems. One of the problems we have in this country is we have oversimplified what the cultural differences are without identifying the similarities.

Let us talk as well about racism and bigotry because it exists. I am not proud of it. I am not happy. But let us talk about this. Let us make sure that our media makes its contribution.

At the same time we could talk about major health issues, the question of ageing. What are the implications

on Canadians, on Canada, on the economy, on social affairs? What about major health problems such as AIDS? This is a wonderful mechanism in order to explain the difficulties and in order to teach people more about this difficult situation.

What about international affairs? If one looks recently at countries such as Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, one notices massive changes. I was delighted to see last night a major program trying to explain what the economic, social and cultural implications will be of those political changes. What better medium than our media to do that. Let us talk about global pollution, let us talk about famine and world hunger. Perhaps the most significant point that I want to make with respect to broadcasting and all that surrounds it, is a marvellous opportunity to learn about Canada and its place in this world. It is a wonderful mechanism for helping parents, schools, colleges and universities to educate the Canadian people. If we want to be leaders and not followers, especially when comparing and talking about the importance of education, training and retraining, the teaching of science and technology, research and development, we have to consider that broadcasting has the same kind of potential.

• (1400)

[Translation]

I feel that we need a very close link between our educational institutions and the media. Together, they provide information to Canadians. Together, they can make me more aware of things and provide information on subjects I feel are very important, so that I can make my full contribution to Canada's development.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.