

wires to the Canadian Government and said: "Don't do this. The Americans will get angry at us. We have to get the free trade deal through". What did the Government do? At the first big test in culture and the free trade deal, the Government hastily withdrew its Bill. In fact, it tabled another Bill that would subsidize some Canadian film companies and the Americans would not be too worried about that.

I managed to get a copy of the Government's Bill which I tabled as a private Member's Bill. It is exactly the same as the Government's Bill, and it was there for all Canadians to see what the Government was going to do before the trade deal and how the Government backed away from it after the trade deal, in spite of the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) stated that culture was not on the table in the free trade deal. I point that out as an example of how the Government can back away when it is under fire from the Americans or from its business friends.

As I said, 97 per cent of the film industry is foreign controlled; only 3 per cent of new video-cassette sales in Canada are Canadian. Canadian publishers own only 30 per cent of the Canadian market; 77 per cent of magazines sold in Canada are foreign. The Government has just slashed the postal subsidy which permitted many Canadian companies the chance to survive in a difficult market. Further, 85 per cent of records and tapes sold in this country are foreign. By the Government's own admission in a Department of Industry study, the record industry in Canada was sold out by the trade deal.

Madam Speaker, I am not advocating putting a curtain around Canada. We live in an international world and we have to communicate internationally. There is no country in the world that does not consider itself a colony of another country, no industrialized country certainly, that has let so much of its vital communications industry and cultural industry be controlled from outside. One cannot keep a culture if foreign forces are going to gobble up that culture. That is the great struggle in Canada, of course.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications on a point of order.

Radio Act

Mr. Edwards: The Hon. Member may have received my signal. I was going to request that he return to the subject matter at hand. He is making some very interesting points, and they are suitable subjects for debate in the House, perhaps at another time.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Port Moody—Coquitlam.

Mr. Waddell: I say to the Parliamentary Secretary that this is very relevant. In fact, there is a clause in the Bill that permits the Government to retain control and keep the industry Canadianized. The industry is still Canadianized, thank God. But if one looks at the Government's previous record, it is to back off and not to take advantage of those particular clauses. Do not do anything about it, and back off when threatened by your American friends.

I suggest that action is required to ensure that our radio communications industry is not the next victim of American takeover. I assure the Parliamentary Secretary that we in the NDP will be vigilant in our efforts to make sure that the Government does not stand idly by while another sell-out occurs under this disastrous trade agreement. After all, as Karl Deutsch suggested, it is a fundamental test of nationhood that more communications take place within a country than between one country and another.

For the reasons I have outlined, we will let this Bill move forward today. I believe my hon. friend, the Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus), wanted to add a few words on the Bill. We are then prepared to let the Bill go to committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Madam Speaker, there are two brief things I wanted to say in relation to the Radio Act. Part of this Act changes the requirement for ham-radio operators in terms of their qualifications. In some categories, they no longer need Morse code in order to qualify. As a former president of a ham radio club in my riding many years ago, who never got his ticket because he could not figure out Morse code, I appreciate that change.

Second and more importantly, I wish to use this opportunity to compliment ham-radio operators around the country who provide a great service to the country in