

We are prepared to do this if it suits the government. However, when many of us who are concerned ask questions about the Copyright Act and its unfair effects on Canadian authors, we are met with, "Oh, well; the Copyright Act is in the process of review and this matter will be dealt with in the package". The Copyright Act has been in the process of review all my adult life, which is saying something because I have reached the halfway mark. Ever since I came here in 1962 I have been told that the Copyright Act is under review. A succession of ministers have dealt with this question. I hope the new and vigorous Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) will really put his mind to the problem, and that we and those who follow us will not be met with the same excuses in the years ahead. Let's get on with blocking that obvious loophole right away so that Canadian authors have the protection to which they are entitled.

In his speech the minister mentioned UNESCO and the fact that Canada will ratify the 1970 convention as a means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property. I hope his expectations about obtaining provincial agreement has a better foundation than the also long-espoused hope to get the provinces to agree to the ratification of the convention on human rights. It is time for another move in the constitutional field. It might be a several-pronged approach so that many of these international agreements that are waiting for ratification, I suspect much to the embarrassment of many people in Canada, can go forward.

Having mentioned UNESCO, I think it is right to say that the convention is one of the positive aspects of the contribution UNESCO is making to the world of culture. As an observer of the scene, it saddens me very much that at a recent meeting of UNESCO their objectives were, in my opinion, much too narrowly based. This organization which has done so much for the world has suddenly found itself to be very highly politicized.

Hopefully, the bill will prevent what many of us who live in the Atlantic provinces—or, I might say, the older, settled parts of Canada—have observed to our sorrow through the years. That is the movement of treasures—I use that word in the widest sense of our history—virtually by the truckload to the United States. Any citizen of New Brunswick has seen it happen. Buyers come from the United States and go around to the various homes, at least in Atlantic Canada and I suspect very much the same thing happens in Quebec, and pick up treasures for resale in the United States.

● (1420)

I know there is a dollar value in this bill and I know that there are other aspects to it, but I hope that collections—the minister mentioned several collections that are still intact in many places in Canada—of value to our heritage will be acquired through the fund the minister is going to set up. This would be of benefit to us all.

The objective of Heritage Canada, which of course is a charitable foundation which has very close links with the government and whose objectives have application to this bill, is to encourage the preservation of the best of our heritage for future use. Obviously there are countless aspects of heritage which may include such things as our

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literature, our music, our theatre, and crafts. The heritage which is immediately threatened includes those visible and concrete things which our ancestors gave us. To some, of course, the heritage is in the very geography of the country and the fact of our national parks. The inspiration for founding a parks system was Sir John A. Macdonald who set aside Banff as the first example of this system of preservation.

But to many geography is not enough. Land and the setting aside of land is not enough; there has to be some of the very things I have mentioned—houses, churches and other things used by our forefathers, such as the furniture which was produced for their homes, their decorations, and so on. I think the minister mentioned, for instance, the acquisition of Papineau Manor or the Papineau Chapel. At least, I have seen an account of this recently; I suppose it was in the Heritage quarterly report. If I may say so, it was a wise decision to acquire this for Canada, but it astounds me to think that until this bill is passed it might, under law, be possible to take Papineau's "revolutionary flag" and export it somewhere where current revolutionaries might find a use for it.

Mr. Lalonde: It might give them ideas.

Mr. Fairweather: As the minister says, it might give them ideas. A recent example of the same dilemma is to be found in Britain. The minister mentioned the Waverley report. In Britain now, many of the ancient churches are selling some of the important church decorations, the altar silver, and so on. So the board the minister is going to set up, composed of experts—hopefully, the experts will have the advice of members of the public—will have a very formidable job if our heritage is to be kept for us.

Heritage Canada believes that a first priority in wide heritage conservation is better law at the federal, provincial and municipal levels for preserving buildings. They also suggest that we should have a register—the minister might apply himself to that at a later stage—of what we feel is worth preserving. It should be a register because that which has a local habitation, a name, must be named in order to concretize the general principle. I like everything in that concept except the verb "concretize".

We must know what is there to be protected before effective protection can be provided. Stock must be taken. The heritage property, buildings, areas, parks and natural landscape must be listed. Presumably the review board or some agency of the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) will, in terms of items to be protected by this act, have a similar type of register when the legislation comes into force. It will be a little more difficult, of course, but fortunately the minister is helped by a very large and increasingly well informed public opinion which feels it wants very much to save these treasures for future generations.

Canada, of course, does not have many archaeological sites which yield valuable treasures, except those the minister mentioned in terms of our native peoples. There is not a hoard of Canadian material which the world museums are hungry for. The Canadian problem is to protect the fragile and meagre evidence of our prehistoric past and to save the evidence of the cultures of our native peoples and to preserve in Canada the works of art and art