

[Translation]

—and also reassure the Hon. Member and all Members of this House that a thorough review of this case will be made early next week.

[English]

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North.

Mr. Crombie: A supplementary question—

Madam Speaker: If the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North does not take the floor, I will give it to someone else.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRESIDENTS—PROPOSED INCREASE IN CANADIAN CONTENT

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. In the Minister's policy statement of several days ago he set out a very laudable objective for CBC television which is, that within a relatively short period of time, the CBC should provide 80 per cent Canadian content during prime time. However, the Minister made it clear that there would be no more money forthcoming for that kind of increased production and suggested that the money could be raised by the CBC through increased efficiency, which we assume would mean the laying off of another 500 employees. Given the fact that CBC has announced the appointment of six new vice-presidents, would the Minister explain how CBC can achieve that goal without more money, and how it can become more efficient by firing employees and appointing more vice-presidents?

[Translation]

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that I did indeed mention at least four ways in which the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation could have access to more funds, including the Hon. Member's suggestion for better management of the CBC which today has a budget of \$850 million. I would like to add: giving CBC senior management an opportunity to reallocate resources and make its international sales operations more aggressive than they have been in the past. In doing so, they could release funds that would give them access to another fund we established as of July 1 of this year, which would enable the CBC to purchase nearly \$115 million worth of new productions made by private Canadian producers. There is also a possibility for the CBC to make co-productions with major French and European television networks and with the private sector in general. All this would help produce a very substantial amount of new programming in this country.

Oral Questions

[English]

LOCALE OF PRODUCTION DECISION PROCESS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Going back as far as the Fowler Commission, every study that has been done of the CBC recommended that more production decisions should be made at the regional level rather than in Ottawa, yet in the last couple of weeks we have seen the resignation of the senior person in charge of CBC productions, Mr. Herrndorf, obviously because more of those responsibilities are being shifted to Ottawa. How can the Minister square this increased bureaucracy in Ottawa with the recommendation that production decisions be made at the local and regional levels?

[Translation]

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that a network like the CBC must have strong regional production. The only way we can create a national network is through strong regional productions which are then fed into a national network.

Regarding the substance of the Hon. Member's question, he may have noticed that one of the measures taken very early on by the new President of the CBC was to appoint a new Regional President responsible for ensuring that the regions have access to senior management in Ottawa and can report directly to the head office in Ottawa, thus emphasizing the importance of regional resources.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

REQUEST FOR MORATORIUM ON TAX RULINGS AFFECTING ARTISTS

Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. I would first like to thank him for changing his mind since Monday and placing a moratorium on the tax ruling from his Department with respect to the musicians of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crombie: Thank you very much. I had raised in the House previously a question requesting that similar action be taken on behalf of the artists and painters of our country. At that time the Minister also indicated that he could not do so. However, I would like to ask him today if, in light of his decision with respect to the musicians, he would reconsider his response and place a moratorium on the tax rulings affecting artists so that they can now enjoy the kind of tax regime which will allow them to be creative again.