

*Government Orders*

*Uncle Chichimus*, for example, which was a puppet show that long predated—

**Mr. Harvard:** *Howdy-dooty*.

**Ms. Clancy:** *Howdy-dooty*, indeed, although that was a direct steal from the Americans.

I remember *Chez Helene* which for many Canadian anglophone children was the first place that they learned simple French words. They learned how to count in French. They learned the fact that there were two languages in this country, and it was a tremendous opening, a tremendous bridge between what my colleague from St. Boniface referred to as our two solitudes.

I want to refer very briefly to the amendment of my colleague from Port Moody—Coquitlam and say that we support this in our party as well, but we would remind the House that while it is important to have predominantly Canadian content in prime time viewing, it is important to keep Canadian content throughout the day in our television because children watch more than just prime time. Women at home watch more than just prime time. Senior citizens watch more than just prime time.

It is absolutely essential that the majority of those programs continue to make use of the Canadian experience and Canadian creative ability. To waste that is really a scandal and a terrible misuse of the resources that we have in this country.

I want to say that we all know, as ACTRA has said, that Canada is a culturally occupied country. This is something that we were seeing turn around over the last 20 years. We were seeing a change, as I said before a see-change, in the attitudes of Canadians toward their own programming.

I remember very well 30 years ago if you saw something coming on that was supposedly a CBC production—well in Nova Scotia we did not have the cable channels that we have now. It was CBC or nothing as my colleague from Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte said.

**Mr. Comuzzi:** CTV.

**Ms. Clancy:** No, we did not get CTV until the mid-1960s. Thank you, my colleague from Thunder Bay.

We did not watch because we had been conditioned to think that if it was Canadian, it was somehow inferior. I believe that Canadians have been reconditioned. I am not saying that everything that gets produced in this country is good. Far from it. But let us have the opportunity to be good, to be mediocre, to be indifferent. Let us have the opportunity and let Canadian talent, Canadian ability, and Canadian creativity shape this cultural institution, shape what we and what our children will be watching on television.

I believe, and I suspect that most members of this House would agree with me, we might be quite a bit better. We certainly could not be a whole lot worse.

I also want to speak briefly on the whole question of the amendment relating to the National Film Board. The National Film Board is a treasure in this country, beyond counting. My colleague from Mount Royal talked about *Studio D* and some of the films that have been made by *Studio D*. One of the films, *Black Mother, Black Daughter* spoke eloquently to the situation relating to black women in my community of Halifax—Dartmouth where 95 per cent of the indigenous black population of Canada live. This is also the same studio that made the film *Not a Love Story* which is recognized world-wide as a major instrument in the fight against pornography and the fight against the stereotyping of women.

Along with that we have the wonderful film *Speaking our Piece* which brought Canadian women together with women in the Soviet Union in the quest for peace, and we have the equally wonderful film against nuclear proliferation called *If You Love this Planet*.

If the National Film Board is not to be included in this bill, I do not know where we are going and I do not know what has happened to the compass of the cultural fate of this country. It is clear that if we can leave the National Film Board out of the broadcast bill, if we can leave the National Film Board out of our future plans for the cultural enrichment of this country, for the cultural planning of this country, then our cultural ship is sinking.

• (1730)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before I recognize the next speaker, a point of order by the hon. member for Calgary West, the Government Whip.