

*Adjournment Debate*

● (2205)

One must also ask if the commissioner, who said her original home was Ireland—no one asked for her birthplace—was seeking the same thing as a member of parliament in the late nineteenth century, that is, General Laurie, the member for Shelburne, Nova Scotia, from 1888 to 1891, who returned to the Isle of Wight upon retirement but demanded that his passage between the British Isles and Ottawa be paid by the Government of Canada. When one looks at these expenses of the CRTC, one wonders whether she, the commissioner, got her travel expenses. I do not think she did, but it is a good question, one that I have not asked yet.

Whether the designation of original home as Belfast, Ireland, was the actual home before she came to Ottawa, or whether this was an attempt to be cute, this response to a question from a member of parliament is good reason why she should be replaced by someone from British Columbia, or even from the maritimes which have no representation. No doubt the replacement of her colleague, Roy Faibish, whose record is well known in the House and was reported by me on October 31, would enhance rather than diminish the CRTC.

Both the east and west coast regions have an absolute right to membership in this exclusive club, a club which, in the past two and a half years, has spent more than \$350,000 in tax dollars that we can trace on travel to B.C. hotels and that does not include the salaries which range from a minimum of \$35,000 to \$67,700, also paid by the taxpayers who earn one sixth of the salary for which they pay.

Members of the regulatory board of communications should be broad in intellectual and communication experience, should have competence, a sense of justice and wisdom to serve the diverse and complex needs of this great land. They must possess the highest level of experience and a reputation for success in communication and contemporary technology. They should not be disabled intellectually, or warped to the extent of the male member who demonstrated his great prowess in Vancouver on October 24 in a rather perverse way, with an expertise which seemed to concentrate on the nether regions of the human anatomy.

There is an intellectual disability which has manifested itself, in at least the lower mainland of British Columbia, in the form of a nationalistic bigotry, a bigotry and narrowness which would impose their centre-Canada ego and consequent mediocrity on the rest of this nation, which demands and yearns for richness and understanding of the whole colour and pageantry of the real Canada. Lower mainland British Columbia has had to accept—for too long—the output of cliques in Toronto and Montreal.

In saying that the commissioners are not nominated to represent regions but are nominated for their knowledge, the minister begs the question: What knowledge? What were the criteria on which these people were selected, if not on a representative basis? The chairman is a geographer from Montreal who earns between \$51,900 and \$67,700. The deputy chairman is a lawyer from Montreal. That is hardly a necessary qualification for communications. The other deputy

[Mrs. Holt.]

chairman is a mathematician. Mr. Faibish, to whom reference has been made, was a broadcasting executive. There are lawyers, law professors and engineers. These are hardly qualifications that enhance this important assignment.

In conclusion I would just like to paraphrase Arnold Toynbee, in reference to the non-reply by the minister to my question, when the former said before the UN in 1979, "We will not accept annihilation of freedom of choice without representation."

● (2210)

**Mr. C. Douglas (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, first I should like to direct my comments to my colleague, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt). Many times I find I agree with what she says in this venerable House, and there are times I do not. This happens to be one of the times that I do not, but I do not think the hon. member will hold me in any less esteem for that particular expression this evening.

Apparently the hon. member suggested that the CRTC has neglected or is not fully capable of understanding the concerns of the citizens of British Columbia because none of the commissioners was born in British Columbia. There are several points to be made in response to this suggestion. As the Minister of Communications (Mrs. Sauvé) said in the House, and I tend to agree with her, CRTC commissioners are chosen primarily because of their knowledge and experience, not because of their birthplaces and not as representatives of regions.

It is appropriate that it is just after St. Patrick's Day because sometimes I have called the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway a bit of a leprechaun. Perhaps we can look upon the hon. member this evening as being somewhat impish in her presentation to us and in making suggestions. Of course impish is not the same as being leprechaunish. Impish because, as I am sure the hon. member was aware when she made her suggestion, the CRTC commissioner in question indicated some time ago that she intended to retire from the CRTC in April. Impish also because, as I suspect the hon. member is aware, a CRTC commissioner can be removed only for cause.

I would hope the hon. member does not mean to suggest that being born in Ireland is just or sufficient cause to disqualify a person from serving in the Canadian government as an elected or appointed official. If this were the case, I can think of at least one member of the House of Commons who certainly would not qualify. In fact there are quite a few of our colleagues who certainly would not qualify. I am thinking of the hon. member for York East (Mr. Collenette), the hon. member for York South (Mrs. Appolloni), the hon. member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson), and the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert). Certainly they were not born in this country, but they are fine, upstanding, and very capable members of the House of Commons.

It is the duty of CRTC commissioners to ensure that the policies made by the House of Commons are applied equally in all provinces. For example, this means that the French service