

Broadcasting Act

one's heart and in the logic of one's undertaking that the recognition of one-third of Canada is made up of people from a variety of ethnic groups and from many multicultural backgrounds. Only through including both the visible and the invisible minorities will we truly reflect the thinking of who and what we are as Canadians.

I do not think that we want to see any Canadian sidelined or isolated. We would like to see them mainstreamed in everything we do. They should be mainstreamed in terms of representation, on boards, on agencies, in commissions, as judges, in the courts, at the decision-making level as we are talking about broadcasting, as to the news that goes on our news broadcasts, as to the literature that we use to turn into a television program, and in any and every aspect of those matters which affect us as Canadians, because they are Canadians. I cannot see the importance of isolating in law that aspect of the responsibility of the CBC board or the commission. Those are the responsibility of nominations by Order in Council, by a Minister, and through the Government, and the sensitivity lies at that level.

I would presume that the Minister has made good appointments. She will continue to do so. I hope that subsequent Ministers will do the same thing. The boards of directors and the tribunal members of the commission will certainly and hopefully reflect the kinds of persons who make up the fabric of Canada.

It is a fundamental characteristic of Canada both in terms of our aboriginal peoples and of the multicultural peoples from over 100 nations across this world who have come to enrich the tapestry that forms the background and therefore reflect the personality that is Canada.

I would suggest that if the Minister feels that we need this kind of directive to sensitize the Minister and the Government of the day to the realities of Canada, so be it. I am of the view that that should be part and parcel of the mentality that one brings to the office and certainly to the position of a Minister, and certainly anyone with much sensitivity to Canada would do so.

Although the principle and the philosophy is an excellent one, I do not think that that should be implied in law.

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak in favour of the amendments as originally proposed by the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) because the multicultural—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Red Deer on a point of order.

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) is away out of necessity. He wanted to be here. He asked me if I would take his place in the House of Commons.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is a point of clarification. The Hon. Member for Edmonton East has the floor.

Mr. Lesick: Mr. Speaker, the recommendations and motions that we are discussing at this time are very necessary because of the 38 per cent multicultural nature of Canada. Thirty-eight per cent of the people are neither French-speaking nor of French origin or of English origin. They should be reflected in policies and in governing bodies in Canada. This has also been a feature of the multicultural thrust our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

The Prime Minister has spoken about the fact that multiculturalism is a fact of life in Canada and that more boards should reflect that fact. In speaking on Motion No. 31, this is a direct recommendation of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council. This is its recommendation, and it has been given much thought. The Canadian Ethnocultural Council is composed of all ethnic origins within Canada. In its brief to the legislative committee on broadcasting for Bill C-136, it made a very strong plea that this recommendation be included.

Programming that reflects the multicultural-multilingual nature of Canada should be provided within the broadcasting system as resources become available for the purpose. Of course that makes good, common sense. Our Government is committed to it. It is a very normal and natural way to proceed rather than dogmatically proceeding with it in another manner.

Motion No. 72 indicates: "At least one director shall be representative of the interests of the ethnic and visible minorities and the appointment of that director subject to the consultation by the Minister of the groups and organizations that he deems representative of such minorities".

This is directly from the Canadian Ethnocultural Council recommendation. It is one that again reflects the Government's commitment toward multiculturalism and, in broadcasting, it is an area which has not been covered before. We must proceed with these recommendations. Motion No. 77, of course, goes on to talk about a commission. In speaking in favour of these several motions, I would suggest that it is essential that they be accepted.

● (1800)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am going to recognize the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon. We are sitting until 6.16 p.m., so I hope the rest of the time could be split up between the Parliamentary Secretary and the Hon. Member.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for confirming the length of time available. I will be governed accordingly. I appreciate the opportunity to say a little about these several motions proposed originally by the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway), who is unavoidably away at the moment as others have been noting. The