

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster)—Agriculture—Amount of farm debt. (b) United States program; the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille)—Education—Funding of student loans program. (b) Tuition fees query; the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—VIA Rail—Age of locomotives—Government plans.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Masse that Bill C-20, an Act to amend the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Radio Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture.

**Mr. Jim Caldwell (Essex-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, this is my first opportunity to rise in the House. If I may be permitted to bootleg a little, I would like to thank the people of Essex-Kent for sending me here.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Caldwell:** Essex-Kent is the most southerly riding in Canada. It is the home of Point Pelee Park and Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary. Wheatley, my town, has the biggest inland freshwater fishery in the world. Furthermore, my riding also includes one of the major communications areas in North America. Those who are familiar with our geography will know that Detroit, Michigan, is located half a mile from the City of Windsor and has been a leading communications centre for many years. However, like many other areas of Canada, it has been affected by CRTC rulings. Station CKLW Windsor, which is a 50,000 watt station, was once the leading radio station in North America. However, as a result of CRTC regulations, it has now dropped to a much lower level. It is an example of how the CRTC does not bend the rules to suit Canadian businessmen.

*CRTC Act*

• (1610)

In our area it is possible to receive 32 AM stations and 40 FM stations. We can use only rabbit ears to receive 10 to 15 stations. Windsor is one of the last cities in Canada to be cabled. This is being done at the present time.

I spent some 18 months in the broadcasting business, like some of my colleagues. I have seen great changes take place in those 18 years in both private and public broadcasting. I remember when there were only one or two stations available in my rural area of eastern Ontario. Today, television basically runs our lives. It has become the principal disseminator of news, and the principal vehicle for entertainment in the country. It has become the national performance stage and the national forum of information and debate.

It is time for us to decide how we will use these new communications and how they will affect our lives in the future. Canadians now spend half of their leisure time watching television, an average of 23 hours of television per person per week. That is 3.5 hours per day for every man, woman and child in Canada. The combined time that Canadians spend reading books, newspapers and magazines, going to movies, watching VCRs, going to the ballet or symphony, attending a sporting event, playing with the home computer or even doing nothing, does not total the time spent watching television.

I believe it is very appropriate that our Government is introducing new legislation concerning our future and future generations. Our children are spending more and more time watching television and being influenced by television. It is also appropriate that our Conservative Government is changing the Broadcasting Act, because it was during the depression year, in 1932 that the Conservative Party, under the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, established the principle of the national sovereignty of the airwaves and created a national network.

The Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act passed the House with only one dissenting vote. There were only a few radio stations at that time that were low in power and were being overpowered by the United States.

Just 50 years later, communications have changed, but in many ways we still face the same old problem of being inundated by U.S. programming. The numbers of hours of television watched by our children will certainly have an effect on our future generations. What R. B. Bennett said in 1932 still holds true today, that this country must be assured of complete Canadian control of broadcasting from Canadian sources, free from foreign interference or influence.

This is the purpose of Bill C-20. It will set out some overdue rules and regulations. I would not say they are long overdue because the communications industry is moving so rapidly that I do not believe even the Government can make changes fast enough to keep up with the industry. This Bill is an attempt to make changes as quickly as possible. It is important to act now before the industry is completely out of control.

We live in an era when consumers can, by the flick of a switch, receive as many as 100 channels to get as varied information as they desire. While I am sure that everyone