

*The Address—Mr. Thompson*

Though we have no idea how the government intends to set up this project, I believe it is one of the greatest things that could ever happen to our young people.

● (9:20 p.m.)

It is also good that mention has been made of the need to bring in new regulations relating to broadcasting, and that finally something will be done to introduce legislation that will assist our publications. What I have often been concerned about is the fact that we seem to have lost our sense of Canadian identity. I have no time for those who say a Canadian does not have any identity. I have lived too long outside this country, working shoulder to shoulder with fellow Canadians, not to know the impact which has been made on the people in the areas in which we have served—not to know that we have a national identity and character which, unfortunately, is recognized more often by foreigners than it is by our own countrymen at home. We hear it said that to a Britisher a Canadian is someone who is not an American, while to an American a Canadian is someone who is not a Britisher. These are platitudes which no longer apply. What we need is a greater sense of purpose and a greater understanding of that identity within Canada itself.

I believe that in the area of broadcasting there is a tremendous need for change. It is essential in this regard that our national broadcasting system—and we need the C.B.C.—must be made responsible to someone and that the set-up should be adjusted accordingly. Power is dangerous whether it lies in the hands of a man, a party or an organization, and absolute power corrupts. In this regard unless a public organization like the C.B.C. has the same sense of responsibility as elected members of this house have toward those who elected them, nothing but mismanagement, shall I say, can be expected in terms of the responsibility which rests upon the shoulders of the corporation. I would hope, therefore, that when the government considers the changes necessary in the broadcasting field the organization of the C.B.C. will be strengthened so that it may better be able to respond to this challenge.

I realize that the Board of Broadcast Governors is making an effort to encourage the inclusion of a larger Canadian content in broadcasting. Many of our radio and television stations would respond if the material were available. Unfortunately many of them do not have the financial resources to produce material, other than that which corresponds to strumming a guitar and the "pop"

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music we hear all too often from our radio stations. There are tremendous possibilities here if only leadership were given. Perhaps this is an area in which the Canada Council might be the best organization to do this particular job, provided the funds were available.

It is essential, too, that something should be done with regard to publications. Not only the present government but the previous government failed to meet this need. It is now many years since the O'Leary report was given to us, and ever since then it has been gathering dust in a pigeonhole. It may be that not all the recommendations of that royal commission are applicable, but certainly the principles on which they based their recommendations are valid. If we are to have a Canadian publication industry, as is necessary to the Canadian identity of which I have spoken, something must be done to give Canadian publications a chance to survive.

I should like to mention at this point one of the best English language publications, I think, which has come on the market this year. It is a magazine entitled the *Canadian Boy*, published by the Boy Scouts Association of Canada. This fills one of the big gaps which exists as far as our younger boys are concerned, and I am pleased that a publication of this type should have come on the scene in Canada. We need more like it to reach the other levels of the Canadian people.

It adds up to this: There is an imperative and urgent need to do more about developing a Canadian identity and give us the sense of purpose we must have. If we fail to do this I do not think we can have too much to complain about if we lose the struggle presently being carried on for the minds and hearts of men across the world. What does it matter if we solve all the problems which relate to the material life? Suppose we do find a way of using automation so as to profit by all it can mean in this age of plenty, if we lose the finer things in life and those things which go to give us an assurance that this civilization and the world will continue for a while longer. Sooner or later we shall have to realize that this involves the needs of the entire world. We cannot have an organized world with disorganized men any more than we can have an organized Canada with disorganized Canadians.

There is much to be encouraged about. There is no need for a pessimistic attitude.