

*Oral Questions*

Media reports indicate that the report of the Forget Commission will be delayed until the end of September, 1986. I know the Minister is aware of the concerns of pensioners across Canada, particularly those of the Canadian Forces. Is it possible to request from the Forget Commission an interim report on the matter of pension income so that this matter could be settled earlier rather than later?

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

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the Forget Commission will be reporting to me in a preliminary way at the end of June, which has always been the target date. The full report will be coming in before the fall. I have therefore asked the Forget Commission, as the Hon. Member will know, to take a specific look at this issue and to report to me at that time.

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[Translation]

**THE ARTS**

## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO ARTISTS

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. The Government seems to have a well-defined plan to discourage creative minds in this country, especially among francophones. This last month, the CBC and the CRTC have reduced the opportunities for our singers and composers, artists, actors, and so on to become known to and appreciated by the public. My question is as follows: What is the basis of the Minister's decision to distribute a few million dollars among the artists to develop their talents if, at the same time, he removes the most sought-after and effective means of making these talents known?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, the budget of the CBC amounts to \$869.5 million, which is an increase of nearly 3 per cent over last year.

Second, as concerns the recording industry, the Minister of Finance has allocated substantial amounts to this sector and the Government should be able to announce a policy in this regard after consultation with the people involved in the coming weeks.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I have not had an answer to my question.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, what will the Minister do now that the artists and technicians will be without a profession and without a job because of reduction in French contents from 75 per cent in 1973 to 50—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, the CRTC has announced a new policy in this sector and the Government is aware of it. The people involved are being consulted and, as I have said, the problem is also related to the recording industry because broadcasters generally use records to make up their quotas. This is therefore first and foremost a production problem in the recording industry, and it is in this context that the Minister of Finance has made an additional allocation and that a new policy should be announced within a few weeks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

● (1500)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**COMPETITION TRIBUNAL ACT**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Côté (Langelier) that Bill C-91, an Act to establish the Competition Tribunal and to amend the Combines Investigation Act and the Bank Act and other Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Can the Cabinet meeting be held somewhere else?

Order, please. Could I ask all those having meetings to have them somewhere else? The Hon. Member might allow his own colleague to have the floor.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, when I spoke earlier today I was making as clear as I could the concern and the opposition of our Party and the people we represent to the increasing concentration and tremendous power which now resides in the hands of a very few individuals and companies in Canada, power which has been increasing at an alarming rate. The views I expressed are not held only by members of our Party.

I draw the attention of Members of Parliament to a news article which appeared in *The Toronto Star* March 19, 1986. Let me read just a few paragraphs from the article written by Diane Francis:

Nine families control stock worth 46 per cent of the value of the most important companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange, according to a new survey prepared by Canada's major bankers.

The "major bankers" being the Canadian Bankers Association. The president of this Association, Robert MacIntosh, said:

The amount of concentration is dangerous.

The nine families include the empires of Kenneth Thomson, Edward and Peter Bronfman, Edgar and Charles Bronfman, Paul Desmarais, the Reichmann family, Galen Weston, Conrad and Montegu Black, Ron Southern of Calgary and the Siemen brothers of Calgary—