

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, April 7, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE

#### FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture in relation to its study of the implications of communications and culture for Canadian unity.

This report consists of a two-part submission. The first part of our submission was to the special joint committee on a renewed Canada early in February in which we addressed the subject matter. That report and submission are contained as an appendix to this report. The main report is a series of recommendations which address the fulfilling of the constitutional promise in the role of culture and communications in that respect.

• (1010)

One of the major realities that we came to grips with was that the constitutional issues in our country are as much cultural in context as they are political, and if we are ever going to reach a lasting constitutional accord we certainly must first of all reach a lasting cultural accord.

In that respect, if I may just quickly state, that does not mean one common mould for Canadians but rather the realization that our common ground is a rich diversity.

In closing I would like to quote quickly from one sentence in the report: "That is the essence of belonging to Canada, being able to share in its diversity, its geography, its people, its cultural expressions and its political institutions. It is simply not necessarily desirable

nor indeed possible to build a national model for Canada based only on our similarities. Rather the key to Canadian nationhood is a recognition and appreciation, indeed a sharing, of our differences".

I would like to express appreciation to my colleagues on the committee and to our staff for a job extremely well done. The committee requests that the government responds to this report.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[Translation]

### PETITIONS

#### EDUCATION

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present this morning. The first concerns the cuts in transfers to the provinces for health and especially for education.

The signers of this petition say that almost half a billion dollars was cut last year and a quarter of a billion this year. All these decisions make a mockery of words like globalization, productivity and competitiveness. They also note that students will have to pay six months more interest on their loans. They want the government to meet its responsibilities to ensure a promising future here in Canada.

[English]

#### RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** The second petition is with respect to the use of foul language on radio and television.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to ensure that the CRTC monitors very carefully the use of language on radio and television. They feel that there is too much foul language unnecessarily so being used. They believe that it undermines parental efforts to set a good example in the families. They point out that foul language is not necessary in any language in order to communicate.