

“Money is no substitute for good public policy”. So, where is the good public policy if there is no money?

I ask that the minister and the government pledge both financial and policy support for the National Arts Centre and do this for all Canadians. This is not an Ottawa institution, it is a national institution.

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond to some of the concerns raised by the hon. member from Nepean with respect to the National Arts centre.

• (1805)

I know the hon. member joins with me in celebrating the end of the strike by the Arts Centre Orchestra. The collective agreement which has been ratified by both the orchestra players and the management ensures that the orchestra will continue to be a mainstay of cultural programming at the Centre.

This three-year agreement will bring the salaries of the orchestra in line with those paid to members of the Toronto and the Montreal symphonies. The size of the orchestra has also been confirmed and new lines of communication have been established between the orchestra and management.

I think this marks the beginning of a very artistically productive period for the orchestra and augurs well for the more harmonious relationship between the orchestra and management. I would like at this time to congratulate the Minister of Labour and his officials who played a very key role in resolving the dispute to the satisfaction of both parties.

As you know, the Government of Canada has been very supportive of the National Arts Centre since it first opened its doors in 1969. In this the twentieth anniversary of the Arts Centre, the Board of Trustees and its staff published a booklet entitled *The Third Decade and Beyond* which examines the policy direction and the programming options which the Centre could consider in the next decade. It is most encouraging to see this kind of planning taking place and I congratulate those connected with the Centre on their enthusiasm and foresight.

This booklet, *The Third Decade and Beyond* will ensure that the Centre will continue to enhance its reputation as one of Canada's premier cultural institutions and will,

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above all, contribute to the state of arts across Canada as a catalyst for co-production and as a showcase and collaborator for performance from Canadian companies which are the pride of many Canadian cities which all Canadians should be able to enjoy.

Of course, quality of this calibre is not inexpensive and the Government of Canada has recognized this. Last year, the federal government contributed \$18 million to the total budget of \$34 million allocated for the operation of the National Arts Centre.

The National Arts Centre is one of Canada's most distinguished cultural institutions. I am confident that adequate funding from federal, provincial and municipal levels of government combined with the all important, aggressive private sector fund-raising program will ensure that the National Arts Centre will continue to enjoy the resources necessary to bring the highest level of performing arts excellence to the people of Canada.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Madam Speaker, the issue that I am raising today is one which I first raised in Question Period on November 9, and has to do with the spill of radioactive mine waste at the Collins Bay uranium mine run by Cameco at Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan.

This, I believe, had the potential, and still does, to be one of the major environmental stories of the year but thus far has not had the kind of publicity because it unfortunately happened when the Berlin Wall was coming down and while the premiers' conference was on. I walked out of Question Period that day to find one camera and two reporters in the lobby of the House which is most unusual. I think that is one of the reasons why Canadians, in general, don't know as much about this issue as they will and as they should.

I might add that in Saskatchewan it has been a major issue. There all the media have covered it. Government officials and others are taking it very seriously. That is not to say it is not being taken seriously here.

I would like to run through some of the chronology of what has happened since November 9 on this story. On November 11, I flew there, toured the mine site, the site of the spill with the chief, town officials, and the local MLA. We had, I think, a very informative trip. Certainly we were shown everything we wanted to see. But what we saw was appalling. As a farmer, I am no