

[English]

Some hold the concept, which I reject, that Canada is divided between the French, the English and the others.

Mr. Yewchuk: That is the hon. member's concept.

Mr. Prud'homme: I have always said, even in the hon. member's district in western Canada, if my name were "Prud'hommieski", I would reject the concept, as would the hon. member of German origin who spoke, as would the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) and as would the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), that I am "one of the others". I would object to that. I ask the hon. member, what kind of broadcasting act would he envisage in order that we might adopt such a concept in this country? Would the hon. member be ready to cut out some programs on the English CBC network in order to have programs in Ukrainian? If so, would not every single one of the other groups whose mother tongue is not one of the official languages of this country raise their arms and say, "We want a program in our language, too?" Is he suggesting that French stations should curtail their programs somewhat in order that we might broadcast programs in Italian, say?

Mr. Yewchuk: Right.

Mr. Prud'homme: If that is what the hon. member is suggesting—

Mr. Yewchuk: That is what I am suggesting.

Mr. Prud'homme:—then I, personally, reject that concept. I think we are now approaching a time at which, with the multiplicity of channels available, there will be no need to change the Canadian Broadcasting Act. We should continue to use Radio Canada and the CBC as they are, and allot other channels so that persons who want to listen to one of the other languages may do so.

● (1730)

Mr. Yewchuk: You just rejected that.

Mr. Prud'homme: I did not. I said it should be done by others, not by the CBC.

Mr. Yewchuk: You said you did not want a third one.

Mr. Prud'homme: I am asking you if you want a third CBC. If so, in what language will it operate? A CBC for the others? I say I reject that concept. I want the hon. member for Athabasca to define what he meant by "the others".

Mr. Yewchuk: The hon. member asked me to define what I meant. I am sorry he was not listening to my speech. What I meant was that the CBC, as it now exists, should allow third language broadcasting on both the English and French networks.

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, in case the time allotted to me is more advanced than I think, I should like to make a few constructive suggestions.

Multiculturalism

If the government is serious about this multicultural policy—and I think it is, judging from the efforts the minister has made to date and the amounts of money earmarked for this policy—if the government is really serious—and I shall think it is unless proven otherwise—it must appoint more and more people of ethnic origins other than French or English to sit on government agencies.

In all Crown corporations, it is obvious that people belonging to other groups than the French and the English are clearly in a minority, as well as elsewhere.

I believe—and it is already a beginning at the present time—that it is up to the CBC, through its French and English networks, to show Canadians what Canada is—and that can be done in French and in English—to indicate in both languages the cultural contribution of the ethnic groups other than the French and the English, who have, for all that, as everybody knows, historical rights that others have not.

I think that the National Film Board is beginning to make films in the languages of those people who wish to keep their identity in Canada by clinging to their language and origins, but the National Film Board should show those films in English and in French in order that Canadians of long standing, from English or French stock, may realize and appreciate better the cultural contribution that groups other than Francophones or Anglophones have made to Canadian history. That is something that is not well enough known among the Canadian people, Canadians of old stock if you would rather call them that way. As for me, I do not like the word "ethnic", I would rather say: old Canadians and new Canadians. If old Canadians of English or French origin were better informed of the cultural, historical and economic contribution of communities other than French and English ones, there would be better understanding in this country and people would accept one another better.

I also hope, Mr. Speaker, that during election campaigns there will be fewer and fewer people, especially in western Canada—

[English]

—and more particularly in western Canada where we see politicians who for the sake of easy re-election play ethnic group against ethnic group as I have myself heard, not only during the last campaign. I am not putting the blame on one individual or on one particular party.

Mr. Yewchuk: Put it on the Prime Minister.

Mr. Prud'homme: I said I am not putting the blame on anybody, but if the member wants to start mentioning names I might give him a preview of names I could mention next week. What I am saying is that time after time we have seen politicians of various political parties—I am ready to go that far—playing one against the other. For instance, I have in mind the example of a district where the French Canadians—I prefer to say les Canadiens français—you know where I place the emphasis; I did not do the translation from "Canadiens français" to "French Canadians"—I am as Canadian as the hon. member for Athabasca and Canada is as much mine as it is his, or anyone else from western Canada, I can assure you of that, Mr. Speaker—