

*Government Orders*

Alberta with Gretzky—he then played for Edmonton—or Team Quebec with Mario Lemieux—he was then playing for a Canadian team. They wanted Team Canada. They wanted to see one team and they wanted people to speak for Canada.

The minister and others have expressed the view that keeping the clause dealing with the CBC promoting national unity will lead to propaganda, that the CBC will be forced to maintain an artificial, political notion of unity in defiance of the artistic integrity of the corporation and the independence. The minister noted in his speech that Liberal governments in the past have launched witch-hunts against separatists in the CBC. That is wrong. Clearly, it is wrong.

It should be noted that the CBC's journalistic independence is protected elsewhere in the bill.

I see the minister leaving the House. I hoped the minister would stay and listen to this very important clause. He just puts his hand down and he leaves. It is one of the reasons why this minister has never got this bill through the House of Commons and why it is being delayed. He just does not simply care.

This is a key provision of the bill. The government has attacked the CBC in the past. It stacked the board of the CBC. It made political appointments, such as Bill Neville and Elizabeth Burnam. It has cut back the budget of the CBC. It attacked people in the last election campaign. Dale Goldhawk, for example, the president of ACTRA, was silenced and forced to resign his union position. It has taken after other people in terms of the investigation of election coverage in respect of the free trade issue. Look at the attacks on Roy Bonisteel and David Suzuki?

The CBC is in trouble. The CBC has problems. Part of the reason is because of this government. It is about to attack the CBC radio. I appeal to people out in the country who are followers of CBC radio and CBC television, when it is at its best, to stand up for the CBC and to stand up for Canada. Do not let the government destroy it. My God, it has destroyed almost everything we have got. It has taken our rural railways and our rural post offices and gotten rid of them. It has cut back railways. It is about to sell Petro-Canada. It has slavishly followed the United States in foreign policy. We are losing Canada. This whole country is up for grabs and this is an indication of what is going on. This country may not survive.

• (1520)

We are in a struggle for survival in the next couple of years. This government should be forced to go. It is too bad that we have this out-dated system where a government can be so low in the polls and at the same time still have a majority in the House of Commons, because we have gutless back-benchers who are afraid to vote against their government. If they were not afraid, we would not have the GST. We would not have the cutbacks in these national symbols.

The government is removing the national unity clause of the CBC. It has said to the CBC board of directors: "Well, now you have to sit in English. You have to sit in French." The next step will be while there will be an English network and a French network. Then there will be an English network responsible to the government in Ottawa and a French network responsible to the government in Quebec. Then there will be two countries. We are moving to lose Canada. We need people to speak up for Canada and we need these particular clauses.

I know there are arguments saying that the CBC should not be a propaganda tool. I do not believe the CBC is a propaganda tool with government. I think there are problems with the CBC. I think some of the commentators, as Rick Salutin said in the *Saturday Night* article recently, feel that perhaps there is too much centralized power in Toronto where the CBC broadcasters, such as the Peter-and-Wendy-and-Barbara group, take on too much power to themselves.

But the real view of the CBC is an instrument of national unity, reflecting Canadians to Canadians, taking every part of the country and showing it to other parts of the country, not being a commercial network, such as the American networks, being distinctively Canadian with 95 per cent Canadian content in drama, with a Canadian view of the world, reflecting to our people.

Who speaks for Canada, Mr. Speaker? Not the government. Who is going to stand up while this country is going to the dogs? I hope ordinary Canadians will put pressure on the government, hopefully to get it to resign and to change government in Canada.

I believe this country is worth fighting for. I believe we are losing it and I think that is a great tragedy. We have to fight it everywhere we can and this is one of the places to fight it. I am pleased my colleagues in the other