

Government Orders

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, as I just said, this bill is less than perfect in a number of ways. First of all, there is a new definition I think will cause some serious trouble. The main question we must ask ourselves now is: will there always be a major role for the federal government in communications?

I also think that although regionalization may be positive, it can also have a negative impact. I am really afraid that if the country is divided into five regions, we will not communicate often enough and there will be major differences that will cause serious trouble in this country.

As I said earlier, as a Francophone by birth, as a French Canadian, I wonder, if the federal government does not have an institution where Anglophones and Francophones can work together in harmony and can both help to create a favourable climate for generating new ideas and stimulating creativity, what level of government will be able to do that and how Francophones outside Quebec will be treated if we go ahead with this bill.

• (1720)

[*English*]

I notice that I am coming to the end of my time, and I shall terminate with one comment.

Some people would say—I do not say it unkindly—that this fits “the Tory way”. It is the dismantling of what we have known to be Canada. We have seen the dismantling of VIA Rail, Air Canada and the sale of Petro-Canada. Now, people are concerned as to whether or not this will lead to privatization, whether or not this will in fact be a continuation of the Tory vision of Canada. I hope not.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support these amendments.

The words “predominantly Canadian” should be words that make us very proud. In my previous life, in my normal life—all of us had a normal life before we came to this institution—

Mr. Boudria: Maybe this is incarnation.

Ms. Clancy: No. Same incarnation.

One of the things that I did was to work as an actress mostly on stage, but also on television and radio. It was not a full-time occupation. It was an avocation, but it

gave me the opportunity to meet and to know some of the absolutely incredibly creative people who make up the world surrounding theatre, broadcasting, writing, producing and directing in this country.

As well, I spent four years doing political broadcasting on the CBC. That, too, introduced me to a wealth of people in the area of public affairs programming, again on the CBC.

Over the years, in the creative arts in Canada in particular, in the last 20 years we have seen a real sea of change for Canadians. Young people who wanted to write, act, produce and direct were no longer convinced that they had to leave here and go to the United States, not just to make a success but to make a living.

They were discovering that, because of rules relating to Canadian content, they could stay in Canada. Indeed, there were even people who had the temerity to set up television studios, to create television programs and do advertising, make films and so on in Nova Scotia. Imagine having a creative ability and being able to stay in the province of Nova Scotia to make a living. What a miraculous development this was for people with the creative urge.

I spoke before on the question of the federal jurisdiction and what it means to Canadian unity. I think the words “predominantly Canadian” relate more to a sense of Canadian self-knowledge and Canadian pride. I am sure that every one of us in this House has, at one time or another, listened to those wonderful radio programs on the CBC that deal with the antics of those of us who sit here in this Chamber.

I would bet that even when the barbs fly your way, Mr. Speaker, you would rather hear jokes relating to Canadian politicians than jokes relating to George Bush. You would rather hear satire based on the Canadian political experience than on the British, the American or whatever. I think those are givens for Canadian citizens.

More important, they form a basis of our Canadian identity and reality for our children so that they do not make all of their decisions and choices in life based on what is essentially a foreign culture.

In the early days of CBC television programming, again I remember—I am not going to get into the Winnipeg bit again because if I do I will only get heckled by my own side—the programs for children. I remember