

consistent. I recommend to my colleagues that we be consistent in that regard. There is nothing worse than saying at this time when there is no question before the House that in three, four or five years we will have a debate that will take five hours and no more. The time of the House cannot be extended merely by unanimous consent. The House is powerless because it is a statute that is binding on this House. The Chair has absolutely no discretion. It cannot even ask whether the debate will be extended or not, even though the House be desirous of it.

I am amazed that government leadership would attempt to put such features into statutes. They are going to be sitting over here too. What is healthy for parliament is the ability to discuss, not under a statutory limitation of debate. That is not good for democracy. It is not good for parliament. That is the jackboot of the temporary majority. Temporary majorities have been wrong more than they have been right, and they have imposed more abuses than they have cured.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

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● (2200)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the acting House leader to tell us what the business is to be for tomorrow and Wednesday if at all possible—we do not want to get into more confusion as we did today. Perhaps the hon. member might give some direction to the minister and to the House.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any need to give directions to any of my colleagues in the cabinet, but it might be useful to give some to the hon. member. In any event, in response to his question, the energy bill, C-42, will be voted on tomorrow at report stage and, if there is unanimous agreement, we would proceed to third reading. Following that it is the intention to call the Bank Act extension bill for third reading. That is an urgent priority and I presume it could be dealt with rather quickly—it is a very short bill. We could then continue with Bill C-38, presently under consideration, and after its rapid passage I presume we could deal with Bill C-37, the income tax bill.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, will the energy bill be called?

Mr. Cafik: The energy bill will be dealt with tomorrow at report stage. When amendments are dealt with, rule 74(13) indicates that the third reading stage would be taken at the next sitting of the House if there were not unanimous consent.

Adjournment Debate

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION—REPRESENTATION ON COMMISSION

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, on March 6, I questioned the Minister of Communications (Mrs. Sauvé) with regard to a published admission by her departmental officials that six of the nine members of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission came from Quebec, two from the prairies, and one from Belfast, Ireland. I asked her whether she would replace this member from overseas with one from the Canadian province of British Columbia which has no representation. The minister's answer was no answer. She said:

The Commissioners of the CRTC are not nominated to represent regions. They are nominated for their knowledge of the matters with which they have to deal.

A remarkable answer, Mr. Speaker. British Columbians, who have watched the insensitive, if not vindictive actions of the CRTC in British Columbia, did not need to be told the CRTC is not only unrepresentative of the region but it imposes its narrow nationalism, its own preferences, on our province. Seven times they have improvised vindictive policies, virtually bullying lower mainland citizens and totally ignoring their wishes.

Every Canadian, especially one who, like myself, has worked in the journalistic, creative and broadcasting professions, wants to nurture Canadian stations, Canadian content, and Canadian culture. So concerned was I with helping western Canadian talent grow that shortly before I came here I created a registered B.C. company with two divisions called "Contemporary Content" and "Canadian Content". But no good creative person wants to wallow in the mediocrity that follows when competition is shut out and we are so protected that we work in sheltered cultural workshops.

In Vancouver and the lower mainland we have six Canadian stations on the primary dial—three Canadian network stations, one joint network, one private station, and the community station. We have four American stations including two unimpaired channels and one engaged in "public broadcasting". Now the CRTC has authorized an expenditure of \$6 million 20 miles away in Victoria for a second, redundant, CBC station and a second, redundant, CTV outlet, CHEK TV, which carries both CBC and CTV, Victoria.

The minister admits the CRTC commissioners do not represent the region. One has to ask if the "expertise" and knowledge she discusses, from Belfast, Ireland, is better for Canadians and Canadiana than would be the case if the commissioners came from nine regions of Canada rather than two-thirds from one province and one from Ireland.