

Business of the House

develop those languages and hear them spoken on radio and television.

Canada can play a role in the development of language, as I understand it is doing in French. The French spoken in Canada responds to technological development more imaginatively than is sometimes the case in France. That is an example of a Canadian cultural contribution out of our richness of language.

The Member for Winnipeg North might particularly appreciate my referring to Dr. J.B. Rudnycky, the former commissioner on the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. That commission played an important part in the limited linguistic development to where we have achieved recognition for the equality of status in English and French in federal institutions.

Occasionally I correspond with Dr. Rudnycky because he remains a powerful proponent of a larger recognition of language in this country, including the recognition of regional languages. He wants to move beyond the provisions in the Official Languages Act that legislate against the destruction of language, or "linguicide" as he terms it. We need actively to find those means that could strengthen language. There I think is where the broadcasting policy of the Canadian Government has failed ever since 1968. Of course, in 1968, the official languages policy of Canada was only being elaborated. It had not been legislated when the Broadcast Act of 1968 passed.

● (1250)

Unfortunately, in this Bill there is not that further recognition of the necessity of making the Canadian broadcasting system multilingual, with care, of course. I know that this arouses fear in many Canadians, English-speaking and French-speaking both, who are anxious enough about maintaining official bilingualism and who think that federal responsibility for additional languages and for broadcasting in them would only arouse opposition to our policies.

This is country that is drowned in American culture. The CBC particularly, and Radio Canada obviously less so, fight for listeners and viewers by re-broadcasting American shows. These broadcasters have given little thought to the possibility of reflecting the diversity of the Canadian population in radio and television. If they were to do so, they would attract viewers who now simply do not bother to watch. These viewers might be attracted if they saw themselves and their ways on the television screen or heard them on the airwaves. That is the challenge that faces us. This Government has obviously failed in that challenge.

We are so aware of the fact that these days, the Conservative Party is doubtful about CBC and Radio Canada, even though back in the early 1930s, the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission was a product of the Bennett Conservative Government. These days we are grateful for small mercies, for the good words that exist in Bill C-136. We probably could not have expected a Government that discovers multiculturalism

just at election times to have done very much about the needs that I am expounding on. It is a challenge to the three Parties to elaborate policies and to develop the means to ensure that the multicultural reality of Canada is really reflected in our broadcasting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to Order made Thursday, July 21, 1988, the recorded division stands deferred until six o'clock today.

[*Translation*]

I have received written notice from the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap), informing me that he is unable to present his motion during Private Members' Hour on Tuesday, July 26, 1988.

[*English*]

It has not been possible to arrange an exchange of positions in the order of precedence pursuant to Standing Order 39. Accordingly, I am directing the Table Officers to drop that item of business to the bottom of the order of precedence. Since notice will be removed, the hour for Private Members' Business will be cancelled and, pursuant to Standing Order 39, the House will continue with the business before it prior to that hour.

It being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m. this day.

At 12.54, the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.