

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

gives us such outrageous and perfidious disservices. I can hardly believe it.

And the author adds:

Could a teenager not try on his own to find the religious enlightenment which he lacks?—instead of accusing his teachers. And could not the C.B.C. show a little better judgment in the choice of some masters of thought which it suggests to our young people?

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that something be done to stop the C.B.C. from showing certain programs and certain films. Many protests are now heard in this respect, and I wonder whether it would not be proper for the government of the province of Quebec to assume its responsibilities, as the censorship is under its jurisdiction, or else, whether it would not be possible for the minister in charge of the C.B.C. to suggest to its management without impinging on the corporation's business the setting up of an organization of parents, educators, and even religious authorities, who would supervise the programs and films shown on television.

In order to allay the doubts which now exist in the minds of Canadians with regard to the C.B.C.'s activities, I think that now is the time for the government to set up a royal commission in order to satisfy the public. There has been abundant criticism, and rightly so.

I do not wish to launch a direct attack against the C.B.C. personnel, because there is some good in that corporation. It employs most distinguished columnists to inform the Canadian people. But I think that there is some abuse in the showing of films and programs by the corporation, and a royal commission might clear up the situation, correct abuses and, by that very fact, result in appreciable savings, by eliminating some expenses which, in some cases might be unwarranted.

When the money of the Canadian people is used to present films which should not normally be shown at hours when young people are watching television, I feel that the Canadian people are complaining, with reason, because they do not wish that their taxes be used to exercise a baneful influence on young people.

I hope that the minister who is responsible in the house for this corporation will assume his responsibilities. By all rights, I think that it would be advisable to institute a royal commission in order to examine the activities of that crown corporation which is now subjected to so many criticisms on account of certain films and programs.

[Mr. Pigeon.]

[Text]

Mr. J. B. Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I should like to assure the hon. member that his views will be transmitted to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that the series of programs to which the hon. member makes reference is designed to be an informative series for young people. Each program deals with current topics of interest to the young people of French Canada. In the program in question many of the students interviewed were members of Roman Catholic youth organizations, which, along with some student newspapers, had conducted surveys into the practice of religion by young people and the teaching of religion in schools in the province of Quebec. The interviews gave these young people an opportunity to set forth their reactions to the results of these surveys and the opinions expressed by those who were interviewed.

FLOODS—BRITISH COLUMBIA—POTENTIAL
DANGERS ON SKEENA RIVER

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, many of the residents in British Columbia, particularly in valleys through which run large rivers, are facing one of the most serious situations in the past 16 years, namely the potential flooding of those areas because of the cold weather and late run-off of snow in the mountains. This question was initially raised a few days ago by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Mather), who has a great interest in this matter, as does the leader of our party, of course, coming from the constituency of Burnaby-Coquitlam; and so far as the Fraser valley is concerned, I know the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing), whose birthplace was right along the banks of the Fraser, being a native British Columbian is also very seriously concerned about the potential flood danger. In fact, I do not think there is a member in the house who may have knowledge of it who is not vitally concerned about it.

We have had floods before in British Columbia from the same causes, the last one being in 1948 and the one before that, in the memory of my contemporaries anyway, in 1936. It seems that on each occasion this flood damage occurs governments look at it from the point of view of hindsight rather than foresight. This has been the case with