

### Supply

socialist Government in France and a Social-Democratic Government in Sweden. There has been a Social-Democratic Government in Germany recently and many times there has been a Labour Government in Great Britain. Those Parties are all socialist or Social-Democratic Parties and the Governments which they lead or led administered their countries and dealt with arts and cultural communities without imposing their will on them and without giving them orders. Those Governments that are not now in office but will be in the future will not do those things.

I say to the Minister that when there is an NDP Government in Canada, as there has already been in three provinces, the arts and culture community will be free. It is free under those provincial Governments and has received a great deal of support from them. I do not mind that the Minister criticizes or attacks us when he feels there is a legitimate reason, but I would hope that he would at least be fair.

● (1240)

This Government said before it took office, and continues to say, that the people of Canada ought not to depend entirely or to a large extent on Governments for the support of arts and other activities. The Government feels that we ought to expect and receive more support from the private sector. I wish that was possible.

In many cities in the United States there are museums, concert halls and art galleries which were built by a private individual, or some foundation such as those established by the Gettys, the Rockefellers or the Fords. I must ask the Minister: Where can we find a comparable situation in Canada? We have the Roy Thomson Hall and one or two others, but that is about it. I have to say that I would not count on as much support from the private sector for arts and culture as does the Minister, because we are getting very little from the private sector.

I would like to put on the record what is happening in the United States and quote from an article which appeared in *The New York Times* on April 22, 1985. The headline is "Private Contributions to the Arts Increase", and the article reads in part:

Eugene R. Wilson, president of the Atlantic Richfield Foundation in Los Angeles, said, "The endowment is a benchmark for us to help establish quality"—

It continued:

—his foundation had decided in 1979, when it gave a total of \$13 million, to substantially increase its philanthropy. His foundation's expenditures showed a steady growth—with \$35.8 million given to various organizations in 1984, including \$6.1 million to the arts—

The article continued:

Chemical Bank estimated recently that such total private giving, which includes some for the humanities as well as the arts, had doubled from \$2.7 billion in 1979 to \$5.4 billion in 1984.

I could go on citing examples from the article, but I would say to the Minister that if he and his Government believe that the private sector should do more, then I wish the Government

would convince the private sector in Canada that it is not doing enough.

It is the view of this Party that it is essential for a country like Canada to give special consideration and assistance to arts and culture. Canada has a population of 25 million people. Canada is situated next door to the largest and most powerful country in the world. The United States is ten times our size in population. Fortunately, or unfortunately, we speak the same language in Canada as they do in the United States. Consequently, what is done in the United States flows over the border into Canada. I am not saying that is bad, but U.S. television, radio, newspapers, magazines and books pour into Canada. Unless the Governments of Canada, federal, provincial and municipal, do a great deal more than they have done, we will drown in American production and become a country without a culture.

There is another problem about which the Minister knows better than I. Canada has a substantial francophone population. There are six million French-speaking people living on a continent which has 250 million people. Unless Governments are ready to support, maintain, develop and improve the francophone culture and arts community, it will not survive. The Government must do much more than it has done in the past.

Canada has lost much of its economic sovereignty. That appears to be accelerating as the advocates of free trade with the United States gain ascendancy in the federal Government. As free trade develops, the free flow of arts and cultural activities will come with it. If that happens, arts and cultural activities in Canada will be in peril.

I would like to compare the promises of the Conservative Party when it was in opposition to the actions of the Conservative Party now that it is in government. In the years preceding the last election, the increase in assistance which was given to arts and cultural activities in Canada by the federal Government was less in real dollars than earlier increases. The increases for culture and arts never matched the increase in the cost of living. The arts and cultural organizations were getting less in real money, in the three or four years before the last election, from the Liberal Government.

What was said by the Conservative Party about that during the election campaign? I remember attending a forum in Winnipeg at which the present Minister of State for Multiculturalism (Mr. Murta) spoke on behalf of the Conservative Party. He said that a Conservative Government would maintain the funding at the current level and that the funding for arts and culture would be increased each year to match the increase in the Gross National Product. Speaking for the NDP, I said that was not good enough. However, that was the commitment which was made by the Conservative Party during the election campaign.

The Conservative Party also said that cultural agencies would be free from government interference. It also said that a five-year spending plan would be developed for arts agencies, and that separate incentives would be developed for private investment in the arts. Those promises sounded good. They