

Non-Canadian Publications

Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen) made an ethereal speech this evening.

Mr. Nystrom: A flowery speech.

Mr. Young: It was flowery, as my colleague across the floor says. I was bothered by some of the things he said in support of his amendment. He asked for a special exemption for scientific, technical, and cultural magazines. In other words, he wants advertisers in these magazines to enjoy continued exemption from tax.

It is unfair to ask the average Canadian taxpayer who does not receive these magazines, because their circulation is controlled, to bear the tax burden which ought to be borne by the advertisers in those magazines. Why should advertisers be given such benefits free? My colleague from Skeena amply illustrated the benefits and profits such magazines enjoy. In the long run the Canadian taxpayer must bear the cost if taxes are deferred or lessened. Why should the average Canadian taxpayer pay for the advertisers' costs?

The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock referred to medical, scientific, and cultural magazines. I point out that members of the medical profession, who are among the wealthiest professionals in the country, receive medical magazines entirely free. The drug companies pay for publication and circulation, and the profits derived from such a small circulation are enormous. Ordinary magazines charge what the market will bear. I do not think increased costs to the advertisers would affect advertising in such magazines.

Hon. members speaking to this amendment and speaking in the debate generally have raised fatuous and phony arguments about censorship. They suggest we are trying to close the borders to magazines, that we want to prevent the inflow of technical, medical, and scientific knowledge. Nothing is further from the truth. Bill C-58 in no way attempts to close the border to the inflow of knowledge. It is a tax measure only.

We discussed censorship in committee. Actually one could draw an analogy between our copyright laws and Bill C-58. Our copyright laws guarantee property rights in material which has been written or published. The copyright law says that no person shall in any way use language which is substantially the same as the original covered by copyright or in any way use it, print it or publish it, in order to make a profit. We protect the property right of the originator, the creator of the material written or published. Bill C-58 merely says that you cannot reprint or republish in this country, in substantially the same form, material which was printed or published originally in another country, and claim a tax exemption when so doing. I know that is a rough analogy only between our copyright laws and Bill C-58.

The committee mentioned the copyright aspect to various publishers and writers appearing before it, and we noted that they were all in favour of copyright laws. When we showed them that copyright laws work as Bill C-58 will work, they changed their attitude on the question of censorship; not one of them wanted to repeal our copyright legislation.

[Mr. Young.]

An hon. member opposite earlier this evening suggested that some hon. members on my side of the House think magazines like *Modern Medicine* and *MD of Canada* are worthless, or not worth protecting.

Mr. Friesen: Who said that?

Mr. Young: It was said on the hon. member's side of the House. I remind the hon. member that I had the distinct pleasure of speaking with and examining Dr. Gibson, the publisher of *MD of Canada*. Many hon. members congratulated him on the excellent magazine he and his colleagues publish. Nobody on my side of the House feels it is not a good magazine. It is an excellent magazine.

An hon. Member: Not all Liberals think that.

Mr. Young: I will do my best to change the opinion of the hon. member from Halton. It is an excellent magazine. I am not a medical person, but I enjoy reading it and told Dr. Gibson as much, even though our views on Bill C-58 were not the same. I told him how interesting I find the magazine and asked him to continue sending it to me. I know that once we pass Bill C-58 I shall still receive my copy of *MD of Canada* and still enjoy reading it I know the good doctor will send it, because he is a man of exemplary character. I do not expect Bill C-58, after it passes, to prevent my receiving the magazine.

The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock wants us to grant a continued tax exemption to advertisers who advertise in *Modern Medicine*, *MD of Canada*, and several similar magazines. Why should we continue to grant special exemptions for such magazines? We did it several years ago for *Reader's Digest* and *Time*. Now, several years later, we must correct the problems our earlier actions created.

We know that initiatives are being taken at this time to allow foreign publications to become involved with the scientific, technical, and religious magazine fields in this country. Already I foresee that if we do not encourage Canadian companies in this country to publish in these fields, if we do not act quickly, we shall find ourselves facing some of our present difficulties again some time in the future. We will have the same problem in this one isolated field in another ten, 15 or 20 years down the road, and we will have to go through the same thing again.

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In the early stages of this debate and in committee we heard from members opposite. I do not think I would be taking them out of context if I were to say that the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche), the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) and others on that side had no great concern over the basic principle of Bill C-58. If they had a question as to what we were doing, it was with the mechanics of it. As to principle, there were voices of agreement that the principle was right and that maybe we should have done it all ten years ago.

I find it passing strange that having to come to this stage of the debate we now find members opposite saying "No, no, we cannot do this, we do not believe in it." If anything has changed, it is their principles. There is now an outcry that we should create for ourselves another problem which