

### Government Orders

The government has removed that clause from the CBC's mandate. This is a very crucial change to a bill.

In describing the CBC's mandate, this present Bill C-40 describes it as follows: That the CBC should:

- (i) be predominantly and distinctively Canadian,
- (ii) reflect Canada and its regions to national and regional audiences, while serving the special needs of those regions,
- (iii) actively contribute to the flow and exchange of cultural expression,
- (iv) be in English and in French, reflecting the different needs and circumstances of each official language community—
- (v) strive to be of equivalent quality in English and in French,
- (vi) contribute to shared national consciousness and identity,
- (vii) be made available throughout Canada—
- (viii) reflect the multicultural and multiracial nature of Canada;

And so on.

Yet, the government has removed the one obligation from the CBC, that of promoting national unity. The removal of this clause combined with the division of the CBC board into English and French standing committees weakens the CBC as a national institution. It seems to me that now more than ever we need someone to speak for Canada. We need to start looking about strengthening national institutions.

My hon. friend from the Bloc quebecois wants to dismember Canada, to have a separate Quebec and other separate regions in Canada.

There are forces in the country that are out to destroy this very country. There are traitorous forces in the country that want to dismember it. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the government itself should be moving to strengthen national unity, not to weaken the country; to strengthen national institutions, not to weaken them. That is what is happening in this bill.

Marjorie Nichols, my friend, writing in the paper today, *The Ottawa Citizen*, suggested that maybe we should privatize the CBC. Well, there again, we would lose another national institution. The people in the country are asking who is speaking for Canada. They are dying for someone to speak for Canada. Look at the opinion polls. They want someone to speak for Canada.

Steven Godfrey, in a recent article in *The Globe and Mail*, put it this way: "The proposed changes," that is, the change in dropping this clause out of the Broadcasting Act, the promotion of national unity, "are a sad commentary on the fact that there remains no area in which the very words 'national unity' can be spoken without inviting attack from members of the federal government alone. The federal government itself."

In an earlier speech today, I pointed out how the government is leeching the CBC by cutting back its budget and by relying more on advertising revenues to make it more of a commercial corporation. The government is squeezing and leeching the CBC. What is it doing now? It is meeching the CBC.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Waddell:** I make reference to Meech Lake. What the government is doing is saying we want the CBC to have a Meech Lake view of Canada, but Canada is a little more than Joe Clark's community of communities. This is one reason why ordinary Canadians were opposed to Meech Lake. It is not because they were anti-Quebec, not at all. That is a misinterpretation in Quebec.

My friend laughs and many Quebecers believe that, but it was not to be anti-Quebec at all. Canadians believe, I think, that there is an over-all Canadianism that is beyond the regional loyalties and Canada must be more than 10 distinct societies. It is true that Quebec has a special place in Confederation, through language and culture, and should have power to do that.

Canadians, by and large, when they think about it, including English Canadians from all over the country, agree with that. But they do not want to see a number of decentralized distinct societies in the country so there is no national government at all. That is what this government is doing. That is what this Prime Minister tried to do with Meech Lake. That is why Canadians rejected that. There is a greater view of Canada.

When I was speaking in the Meech Lake debate, I said—and you have to remember that goes back a few years, Mr. Speaker—that Canadians do not want Team