

policy which is slashing away at the very infrastructure of Canadian culture and an industry which is Canada's fourth largest. That is my first point.

My second point is that Canadians must understand the gravity of the situation which has been created by the Tories. By undercutting FIRA, by eliminating the protections to our economy from foreign investments and takeovers, for example, the takeovers of some of our companies in the communications field, Canadians should realize that we are facing very dangerous times and that perhaps we require some extra investment to overcome what the Tories have done by their policies. They have handed over to the multi-nationals, to the seven sisters, that which was reserved as an opportunity for Canadians at last to invest in their own country. When Canadians begin to understand the ramifications, they would rather give a few bucks more than allow the destruction of their soul.

Mr. Boyer: If the Hon. Member was being facetious when he made that point with great vigour and seriousness showing on his face and in his words, was he also being facetious, or was he just misinformed, when he referred to the change in the foreign investment review legislation? He paraded before the House his view that there will no longer be any protection for cultural agencies in this country. Over the past many weeks has he not familiarized himself adequately with the new legislation our Government brought in which requires special protection in the case of communications agencies from foreign takeovers?

Mr. de Corneille: I said that I was being facetious when I used the figure of \$10 because \$4 would do it. I am sure the people would be willing to spend quite a bit more per person if they realized that their Canadian survival was at stake.

Mr. Boyer: \$20 per person?

Mr. de Corneille: Regarding the Investment Canada Bill, Bill C-15, it does not guarantee any protection of the cultural industry. It indicates that the Government may review it. When we see the size of the loopholes, through which a truck could drive, for foreign companies to enter into the field and take over Canadian companies, it seems as though there was no sincerity in terms of trying to prevent foreign investment and takeovers of Canadian firms, which might result in the loss of huge numbers of jobs to foreign investors who might take them elsewhere.

Ms. McDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a comment, followed by a question. Indeed there is a great deal of evidence that Canadians are prepared to pay more to support public expenditure in the arts field. However, Canadians underestimate what is needed in that field. Because they always hear about hand-outs, they think that in fact more is going to artists than is the case. When they hear how little it is, they are prepared to pay a great deal more. A lot more could be done along those lines.

The Hon. Member made a number of eminently sensible remarks in his speech, but I think he evaded one of the main

Supply

points of the motion before us. I am very critical of what the Conservative Government has done for the arts, but let us be very clear that it is a slippery slope. We see the Conservatives behaving in a manner that is worse than the Liberals. The Liberal record is not very good either. Would the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) care to comment on that? Under the Liberal Government, federal spending for the arts declined in real terms in the last 10 years. The Liberal Government did not do any of the practical things he suggested which might help artists. Now that he is in opposition he sounds very nice when he supports artists. But where were they when it counted?

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to the comments and the question of the Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood (Ms. McDonald). If we calculate how much \$4, \$5 or even \$10 per person would be, we would realize that it is the cost of a couple of movie tickets. We realize how much we benefit from the CBC and from Canadian artists. Canadians are prepared privately to pay quite a lot for a seat in a movie-house, a seat at a baseball game and so on. In fact, such a small amount to salvage or save our industry would be well worth spending. I believe Canadians will make it known to their Members of Parliament, especially to those on the government benches, as they understand more clearly what is happening, that they want better from them than cut-backs in an important industry which is so vital to Canada's identity.

● (1600)

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have one brief comment and a question for the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille). The comment is that it is almost beyond belief that we have an Opposition Day today and we have one, two, three New Democrats present, one member of the Official Opposition present, the Member who has just spoken—

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that it is inappropriate for a Member to make reference to those in or out of this House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. If he did say it, he should not have said it.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should not have said it.

Mr. Parry: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I just want to point out to the Hon. Member that the count is four New Democrats and one Liberal.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I have said this once before. Members should know very well, particularly those who have been here for quite a while, not to reflect on who is in the House and who is not in the House.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I promise not to get into the numbers game in any further comments. I