

Official Languages Act and sections 3(e) and 3(g)(iii) of the Broadcasting Act. The question was raised today whether the Secretary of State would be willing to amend the Broadcasting Act in order to get around this obstacle which the CBC claims exists, but the minister said he was not proposing any kind of amendment to the act at this time. I see my time has almost expired, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Yes, it has expired.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, may I be forgiven for answering the second part of this question first.

I am informed that the CBC has made arrangements for ethnic groups that have an interest in the future of station CKSB to be represented at the CRTC hearing in Montreal, at no cost to them, to give them a chance to put their points of view to the CRTC.

With regard to the CRTC regulations, these allow for a large number of multi-lingual and multi-cultural programs.

For one thing, any private radio station can devote 15 per cent of its broadcasting time, which makes 20 hours a week, to multi-lingual and multi-cultural programs, without requiring the commission's permission. And for another, with just written permission and no public hearing, any private station can devote about 20 per cent, or 28 hours, of its time on the air to multi-lingual programs. The commission also grants permits to stations that broadcast almost entirely in foreign languages. There are already such stations in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

With regard to the situation in Winnipeg, I am told that some stations in that city and its surroundings broadcast programs in several languages, and that they would be interested in devoting more time to this type of program.

Station CKSB has existed since 1945 and is a private French-language station. Thanks to the money collected from the Francophone community in Saint-Boniface, that station, which is affiliated to the French network of the CBC, has survived since 1945 under the management of a non-profit organization, the Fondation Radio Saint-Boniface Incorporée.

It broadcasts 132 hours a week, of which 76 originate locally and 56 are provided by the French network of the CBC. That station sold various ethnic groups, Jewish, Italian, Ukrainian, Polish and Portuguese, local broadcasting time on Sunday afternoons from 12.30 to 6 o'clock.

The CBC recently signed an agreement with the Fondation Radio Saint-Boniface Incorporée, holder of the CKSB license, for the purchase of that broadcasting station. This agreement expires on March 31, 1973 and is subject to the approval of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. The Commission has decided that the hearing would most appropriately be held in Montreal on February 19.

The hearings of the commission are planned months ahead to allow numerous hearings at regular intervals. For instance, the commission sat in Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, to hear the comments of the public—

Adjournment Debate

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order.

• (2210)

[English]

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—POSSIBLE EXCEEDING OF CEILING ON LOANS—REQUEST FOR AUDIT

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I am indeed sorry that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) is not in the House tonight and that he has sent his parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau), to answer this question. The fact is that the minister has misled the House. I feel he should have had the courage to come to this House and explain why he so deliberately misled this House by suggesting that the ceiling with respect to section 29 and section 30 financings, as set out in the Export Development Corporation Act, had not been exceeded as of February 28.

The parliamentary secretary inadvertently set the record straight. He showed that the minister misled this House. May I refer to *Hansard* for March 9 where, at page 2084, the parliamentary secretary is reported as having said:

It has been alleged that because the EDC has to date signed financing agreements totalling \$865 million, it has already exceeded its existing statutory lending ceiling under section 30 of the act.

The parliamentary secretary then went on to point out that this was a misunderstanding. He said that as of January 31, 1973, the same date as the \$865 million was outstanding, instruments outstanding totalled \$500 million, but that it was instruments that were solely taken into account when determining liability under section 30.

I will not repeat the definition of "instrument" which is found in the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, chapter E 18, because my time is short. I suggest that the parliamentary secretary ought to have read the minister's speech when he introduced the bill in question in the House on February 2. At page 909 of *Hansard* he said that financing agreements signed by the corporation with foreign buyers of Canadian goods and services rose dramatically. He then gave figures for each of the years 1970, 1971 and 1972. The he said, as recorded on pages 910 of *Hansard* that the capacity to sign agreements for over \$200 million is all that is left. The words "all that is left" are my own.

That is what he intended to convey to the House, to indicate the urgency for passing the bill. The minister ignored, or perhaps was not informed by his subordinates, that there was another \$250 million of signed agreements which had been taken over by this corporation from its predecessor. The fact is that as of December 31 the outstanding total of signed agreements of this corporation were \$841 million. The minister now knows this, and the parliamentary secretary confirmed that on January 31 \$865 million had been signed.

I would point out that in each of the annual reports for 1969, 1970 and 1971 with respect to this corporation, note 2 is identical in its terminology. It is at all times pointed out that there is an uncommitted authorized liability of a certain amount. For example, in 1969 it was \$238 million; in 1970 it was \$173 million; in 1971 the note pointed out it was \$212 million. I wish to stress that at all times the