

Non-Canadian Publications

He said: Madam Speaker, as the mover of this motion I ask leave of the House to have it stood until we have dealt with motions No. 7, 8, 9, and 10, and then to return to the debate later.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): This can be done only by unanimous consent. Is it so agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion No. 6 stood.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock) moved motion No. 7:

That Bill C-58, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, be amended in clause 3 by striking out line 12 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"of being extended or renewed; or

(c) a written agreement entered into after the coming into force of this section with a Canadian subsidiary of a foreign broadcasting undertaking if the Canadian Radio-Television Commission and the Minister of the Department of National Revenue have approved a plan submitted by the said Canadian subsidiary providing for compensatory payment by such subsidiary by the allocation of funds to Canadian television program production, extension of Canadian television service, development of Canadian talent, or otherwise for the benefit of Canadian broadcasting: the commission may require as a condition for entering into any such agreement that a percentage, to be stipulated by the commission, of the voting shares of such subsidiary be beneficially owned by Canadian citizens."

Motion No. 8.

That Bill C-58, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, be amended in clause 3 by striking out line 12 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"of being extended or renewed; or

(c) a written agreement entered into after the coming into force of this section with a Canadian subsidiary of a foreign broadcasting undertaking if not less than seventy-five per cent of the voting shares of the said Canadian subsidiary are beneficially owned by Canadian citizens and a percentage of the gross revenues of the said Canadian subsidiary, to be agreed upon by the said Canadian subsidiary and the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, less only normal advertising agency and sales agencies commissions, is allocated directly to Canadian television program production, extension of Canadian television service, or other broadcasting objectives for the benefit of Canada: an allocation so made to be pursuant to a plan made by the commission and approved by the Minister of the Department of National Revenue."

Motion No. 9.

That Bill C-58, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, be amended in clause 3 by striking out line 12 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"of being extended or renewed; or

(c) a written agreement entered into after the coming into force of this section with a Canadian subsidiary of a foreign broadcasting undertaking if a sum of money in the amount of twenty-five per cent of the gross revenues of the said Canadian subsidiary less only normal advertising agency and sales agency commissions, is used for Canadian television program production, extension of Canadian television service, educational television or other broadcasting objectives for the benefit of Canada: the method of utilization of such amount to be determined by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission and approved by the Minister of the Department of National Revenue."

Motion No. 10.

That Bill C-58, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, be amended in clause 3 by striking out line 26 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

[Mr. Friesen.]

"aircraft not registered in Canada and which fails to observe guidelines for such foreign broadcasting undertaking jointly established by the Minister of the Department of National Revenue and the Canadian Radio-Television Commission."

Mr. Benno Friesen (for Mr. Wenman) moved motion No. 11:

That Bill C-58, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, be amended by deleting clause 3.

● (2010)

He said: Madam Speaker, where is all that hearty response I got yesterday? It seems to have diminished a little today. I was sure there would be a standing ovation.

I have introduced these amendments and I rise now to speak on them, certainly not on my own behalf because I get to view television less and less all the time and obviously do not get to see it at home. I am speaking on behalf of the people of British Columbia, southern British Columbia in particular, and in principal for the people across Canada affected by the spirit of this legislation.

At the outset we should concede that there is, it is to be hoped, at least one area of basic agreement among hon. members, and that is that each country should have sovereignty over its broadcasting facilities. All of us need to determine the ownership and the direction of broadcasting in our country. We cannot ever give up that sovereignty and accede to the pressures of any foreign country. Having said that, it makes me wonder how genuinely and consistently we believe in that theory.

I recognize, as has been mentioned in this House I am sure on more than one occasion, that a company like Maclean-Hunter has a cable vision company in the United States, and that surely is a violation of the spirit of the philosophy we have in this country. If we do not want the Americans to control broadcasting in any form in Canada then surely we should not be invading the United States in that area.

Then I learned that there is a radio station in the Windsor area which calls itself "Detroit's largest rock station". Practically all of the advertising on it is U.S. advertising, and here is this station in essence a kind of pirate radio station. No one seems to frown on this at all.

It does not seem to bother Canadian viewers that much of the advertising we see on CBC is U.S. advertising. I think all of us are probably somewhat guilty of inconsistency in this matter of sovereignty over our broadcasting policy.

One of the things that bothers me about this legislation is that there is a lot of confusion. It is intermingled with cable policy. All the while we have been talking about Bill C-58 in the House, and we have been talking about it intermittently for a year now, there have been discussions going on in the country in areas relating to Bill C-58. For example, the whole matter of cable deletion, or commercial deletion of cable is being discussed at the same time. In the public's mind this is all one package. If this is true in the public's mind then surely it is our responsibility to sort this out and make certain we give a clear understanding of what the issues are.

Again there is another related problem, and that is that this is essentially a broadcasting policy, and again the