

Government Orders

English radio stations. This was a private initiative. I think they are on track. We applaud them.

Richard Séguin has said to me personally that the reason you sell albums, the reason people come to your concerts is because you are heard on the radio first or you are seen on television first.

Mr. McDermid: It is the chicken and the egg.

Mr. Mills: No, it is not the chicken and the egg. This is the artist's view. It is a standard understanding. When you see something on television or hear something on the radio that is what motivates you to go to these concerts and that is what sells albums.

I think I am well aware of the concerts he is selling out. He is a prime example of why we must continue to add support to our artists for them to travel in all parts of the country. I think that feeling of interaction, that feeling of confidence that there is something in every part of the country for all Canadian artists is the thing that is going to galvanize us. It is the thing that is going to sort of contribute to national unity much more than sometimes the legal documents we prepare in this Chamber.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity today to speak to a bill that I consider to be an important piece of legislation. There are three points I would like to make. First, what I like about the bill, second, what I don't really like because it is not up to standard, and third, the fact that perhaps we should look at potential improvements in this area.

As we all know, this bill is much like the previous one. There is not much difference between the two. However, a number of changes would have been desirable to deal with certain fundamental problems.

I must admit, and I am also very pleased, that a number of provisions have been included that are very positive with respect to women, children, cultural minorities, aboriginal peoples and disabled persons. I am glad to see this.

I also admit that the bill recognizes the French language environment. To me, this is a step forward, not just for Quebec but also for the areas outside Quebec.

[*English*]

I am pleased as well that the originators of program signals will be protected and that educational broadcasting becomes an integral part of the law. I shall have more to say about that shortly.

I am pleased that local stations have priority when carried by cable and that broadcasting is defined to give CRTC more flexibility in dealing with new types of programming services.

Some of the concerns that I have are as follows. The fact that national unity, *l'unité nationale*, has been left out causes me some concern because I, like a number of my colleagues from all sides of the House, believe that the country has never been in greater need of some unifying force or forces. It appears to me and to many other Canadians as well that this is indeed a vehicle that could reach that particular objective. I shall want to expand on that briefly.

I am concerned as well about the part-time position for the CBC chairman. The questions of course that are being asked are why, because of the prominence of the individual, was it primarily motivated as a PR gesture? Was the half-time position to limit the person's influence and role?

You will note as well, Mr. Speaker, that the CBC president is to be appointed by cabinet. Some people have suggested, and I certainly appreciate what they are saying and can see the possibility, that it could involve more political control.

We have talked about a new alternative programming service, and my colleagues have referred to this point. It seems to me when one looks at the way the CBC has been severed in a number of ways, reduced by cut-backs and what have you, that this will be a challenge indeed, and one which we will follow with a great deal of interest.

I am concerned as well because I believe that the Canadian Broadcasting System should be owned and controlled by Canadians. I would have liked the bill to require that at least 80 per cent be Canadian owned and that no single foreign shareholder own more than 10 per cent.

I note that while there is some acknowledgement of *les peuples aborigènes*, or aboriginal people, there is no