Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

member for Bourassa. As I said, seldom have you stood up in the House to fight for the Italian artists within your community. I challenge you to quote a single instance where you made representations on behalf of the great many Italian artists in this country.

Mr. Rossi: I rise in this House more often than you come to this place.

Mr. Desrosiers: Mr. Speaker, I suggest it is important for all Hon. Members to look into the CBC problem, a serious problem which, I feel, should not exist. Mr. Juneau who thinks he is the big boss is responsible for it. He is responsible for this situation. I wonder why he is clinging to power. He should resign. He has completely lost control over the CBC.

As recently as this morning, one could read in the *Le Devoir* newspaper:

Mr. Pierre Juneau, the President of the CBC, warned the Sauvageau-Caplan task force on radio-broadcasting in Canada not to try and draw a red herring the way previous commissions did over the past 30 years—

The Liberal party was in power 30 years ago. They have been in power for the past 100 years. For a whole century, Mr. Speaker! And now Mr. Juneau would like us to come up with "instant miracles" to cure the ills of the CBC. How could we deal seriously with a man who is in charge of CBC and who is seeking "instant miracles"? Do you not find him somewhat strange?

Anyway, I feel it is important:

- 1. That the sub-committee be empowered to hire professional and support staff;
- 2. That the sub-committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place in Canada for the purpose of visiting the Corporations' facilities;
 - 3. That the sub-committee report back to the House directly; and
- 4. That the sub-committee be granted all necessary powers to undertake a comprehensive review of CBC's management and programming.

There are reasons for the cuts, Mr. Speaker. There was a shameful waste at the CBC. There are 19 stories too many in the CBC building. Five of them are completely empty. There is nothing in there.

I think it is about time the Government look into this responsibly, because it is the Canadian taxpayers who are footing the bill. This waste has to stop.

I now ask you to support my motion so that we may regain control of the CBC, develop serious guidelines for programming, really promote our true Canadian culture and let our various ethnic groups, such as the Italians, the Greeks, the Japanese, the Chinese, and so on, make their presence felt. We never see them on the CBC. Never! The Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi) knows this. We have very talented artists of Italian descent in Canada, but we never see them on the CBC.

One of my friends who is Black is an excellent singer. He has never been given a job by the CBC. He is Black and he has no right to belong to our culture! Yet, he was born here in Canada and is a good Canadian. However, he is never given a job. When did you ever see a Black man on the CBC? Everyone watches it!

Mr. Speaker, this is another proof that it is time for our Government to establish this subcommittee to review the management and programming of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

• (1710)

[English]

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to address the motion proposed by the Hon. Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (Mr. Desrosiers). I would like to call attention to the fact that in his motion he calls for the review of the management of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the matter of the corporation's programming.

It was recently brought to my attention that the Hon. Member on March 29, 1985, brought a different motion to the attention of the House. In that motion he called for the House to dissolve the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and to terminate the present mandate for all members of the corporation's Board of Directors. It was an even more sweeping decision which he asked us to make at that time. He asked that we completely eliminate the CBC.

In order to give the Hon. Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve the benefit of the doubt, perhaps he was unaware of the previous studies which have been made by commissions throughout the years with respect to monitoring the work of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and its budget. I cannot see how he could have been unaware of the commission appointed by the former Minister of Communications, the Hon. Member for Frontenac (Mr. Masse), since on May 8 of this year the former Minister set up a commission. In setting up the commission he had a number of interesting words to say. He said that in carrying out the review it would not duplicate what has already been done but will build on work carried out previously such as that of the federal cultural policy review committee, the Applebaum-Hébert Commission and other recent broadcasting policies and initiatives of his Department.

In his press release, the former Minister of Communications stated that he would be presenting the task force recommendations to Cabinet. He said that this would be followed by the tabling of a White Paper in the House of Commons. He said that the White Paper would be considered by a parliamentary committee where formal discussions will take place.

Again, to give the Hon. Member the benefit of the doubt, perhaps he drafted his motion before May 8, before his former Minister's press release which set out the creation of a new task force. As we all know that task force was to deal with a great many matters. I would like to bring to the attention of the House the mandate of the Caplan-Sauvageau task force which reads as follows:

—make recommendations to the Minister of Communications on an industrial and cultural strategy to govern the future evolution of the Canadian broadcasting system through the remainder of this century, recognizing the importance of broadcasting to Canadian life. The strategy will take full account of the overall social and economic goals of the government, of government policies and priorities, including the need for fiscal restraint, increased reliance on private