

Supply

Mr. Duguay: We in Manitoba have entered a period of healing and of national reconciliation which is not at all helped by the reopening of old wounds.

The gentleman opposite has referred to Manitoba. Perhaps he would like to talk about Manitoba's contribution to the arts. The deficit of the Government of Manitoba has increased incredibly in the last four years and the appointments to the arts in the Manitoba community are such that that Party opposite has no lessons to teach anyone when it comes to patronage.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member opposite refers to the community needing a hero, a defender of the arts, let me make it quite clear that this Government and this Minister are so convinced of that that we refuse to waste today's money to ensure the future failure of the arts.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question. As we know, in the United States direct Government per capita expenditures in the cultural industry are much less than in Canada. A few estimates suggest indeed—they are not perfect estimates—that in the United States in 1983-84, those expenditures amounted to \$3.00 per capita while on the other hand, in Canada, in 1981-82, they were \$32.00. Looking at this, I certainly believe this is due to the fact that in the United States the private sector is contributing tremendously more than in Canada, because over there they get income tax credit. I wonder if the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) has any practical suggestion for encouraging Canadians to support the arts themselves rather than always relying on their Government.

[*English*]

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on the record that I have not heard a speech from any Liberal Member that I appreciated more and with which I agreed more than the remarks of the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): I listened for the second time with great interest in committee the other day to the statistics regarding the number of hours that children spend watching television. I do not believe there are any greater defenders of Canada's distinctive cultural identity in this House than the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis and my Minister. I feel exactly the same way.

I hope the Hon. Member will remember as far back as yesterday when the Minister set up a task force to review the whole system of Canadian broadcasting. One of the prime mandates of that task force is to preserve and protect the Canadian cultural identity. I hope that the Hon. Member, along with his colleagues, will participate in presenting their views to that task force to ensure the kind of distinctive Canadian cultural identity that we all wish to see and will cherish.

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, may I first say that I was very happy to receive a question from my distinguished friend, the Hon. Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Duguay), because when I was young I served in the Canadian Armed Forces COTC in Shilo, Manitoba, as a cadet officer in the provost corps.

[*Translation*]

I think that you have asked an excellent question. The public sector obviously has a role to play, but I am very apprehensive about your always harping on about the private sector, but God knows that it suits your Government! It has gotten to the point where my hon. friend, the Minister for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek), says that the private sector should do more. My hon. friend, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise), says that the private sector should do more. We could discuss this at length, but everything cannot be left to the private sector. With regard to cultural matters and Canadian identity especially, the Federal Government has a role to play, and the Provincial Governments certainly have also, but they all have the same approach and want to cut back on everything. What I want to tell the Hon. Member is this: Why not co-operate on a national information campaign for the Canadian people who readily make scapegoats of artists without seeing all the consequences of such an approach? I would be willing to co-operate with the Hon. Member and all those who would like to come with me and my hon. friend, the Parliamentary Secretary, whom I want to thank, which happens rather rarely in this House. However, this is the type of politics that I like and I would like to thank him very sincerely.

[*English*]

I wish to thank him very sincerely for his good words.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am sorry, but the period for questions and comments is over. Debate. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow).

[*English*]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my comments by dealing with a point made by the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) during his speech. Unfortunately, I was not present to hear it as I was at another meeting. However, I was given a summary of one of the points he made and I think it is incumbent upon me to set the record straight.

The Minister apparently accused my Party of being a socialist Party and I accept that as a fair definition of our position. However, he went on to imply that socialists believed in controlling everything and that if we were in office, we would insist on controlling all or most facets of the arts and cultural activities. I do not know about what kind of socialist the Minister was thinking but I would like to tell the Minister, in case he does not know, that there is a Labour Government in Australia and a Labour Government in New Zealand at the present time. There is a socialist Government in Spain, a