

In terms of communications, the CRTC just opened yesterday telecommunications and telephone. No more monopoly. There will be a choice in the long distance market, but there was a concern about that. It is good for business to have choice in the long distance telephone market but it is also important to ensure that the private consumer is not going to be strangled or challenged by increases in local rates for home telephone use.

It is totally unnecessary, if there is a proper monitoring mechanism recognizing that a unified and integrated telephone system is not destroyed. Ma Bell and all its subsidiaries and colleagues are out there. They will be given opportunities at the business level, but do not touch the consumers in the home. That is the message that comes out: consumers come first.

What do we need to have an effective monitoring system here in this country?

• (1940)

We need the regulator to have the power to put into place the regulations and to keep a watchful eye on this new and evolving situation here in Canada. It can be a very healthy situation as long as we do not—I cannot believe I have only one more minute but if that is the case I am making a plea not to cut the CRTC budget. Put the six commissioners in place who are still not in place. Almost half the commissioners are not in place. It is ridiculous. How can we monitor and make this system work, for business as well as for the consumers, if we cut its budget.

We cannot cut out in that area.

It is just a shame that I cannot read into the record the kind of information that no one thought was out there for the cultural community. Everybody breathed a big sigh of relief after the budget came down. They thought there was nothing in there. However when they found out what was in this green book, another little document called *Managing Government Expenditures*, they discovered a section entitled “Ongoing reductions in non-salary operating budget”. That is a convoluted way of saying cuts, cuts, cuts in the cultural sector.

For the communications and cultural sector they totalled \$6.23 million just in 1992-93.

I would be pleased to give the breakdown if someone wishes to hear it for this particular sector. I do not wish to take my colleague's time unfairly.

Supply

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Madam Speaker, I want to compliment my friend and colleague from Mount Royal on her not only factual presentation but very passionate and emotional appeal to the good senses of the government, if those senses still exist in some dark corner.

I have a two-part question. Would she care to finish her outline of the list she was unable to deposit before the members of this House? Second, she listed a long litany of cuts not only to very worth-while initiatives and projects but also to projects that have a minimal impact in terms of the \$160 billion package that we are debating tonight, but an incalculable worth.

I am wondering if it is not more a question of ideology and public relations than of saving a few dollars to the public purse along the way.

Mrs. Finestone: Madam Speaker, I do believe it is a matter of ideology. Probably the reason I chose to be a Liberal was because we are not frozen in the ideological left that feels that the government should do everything and the state should be involved in everything or in the ideological right that says that the marketplace shall determine where everything goes and there is no role for government.

There is a role for government. If the government does not involve itself in good economic policy related to good sound social policy, we are not going to have a good society out there.

If we have a destabilized have-not community that is suffering from poor social policy we will never have a decent economic environment in which to grow and prosper.

The economic and social policies are very closely interlinked, and I thank the member for the opportunity to bring that to the attention of my constituency.

In conclusion, I would like to list the litany of cuts which will be increasing over the next five years. Before I do that, I would like to quote the words of Vincent Massey. I would like to quote him for my colleagues across the floor, all of whom are pretty decent human beings who are feeling pretty rotten about having to go out there and face their electors this summer. In 1924 he said: