

*Cultural Property*

government sector cannot do it all alone, nor can the private sector. I like the provisions in this bill whereby the governmental sector may give leadership but not pre-empt the whole field.

On this quiet Friday afternoon, when we are all motivated by the finest of thoughts, at our best behaviour and with the most modest of demeanours, I will follow my usual custom and give the House an example of brevity. I would like to quote someone whom I have quoted many times before, one of the wisest public men we have ever produced. He is a man whose advice has been heeded or is being heeded in part on this day, a man who gave this advice 104 years ago. I refer to the great Joseph Howe, who said:

A wise nation preserves its records, gathers up its muniments, decorates the tombs of its illustrious dead, repairs its great public structures, and fosters national pride and love of country, by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and glories of the past.

In so far as the minister is helping in that tradition, I wish him well and wish the bill speedy passage.

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief because I outlined the opinion of the NDP on Bill C-33 in the second reading debate back on February 7, as well as in committee. I commend the minister for bringing forth the bill, which we accept and support in principle, a bill to protect the export of historic and cultural treasures. The minister knows my criticisms of the bill, the fact that there are loopholes so that in the end there is no way in which there can be an absolute prohibition to export national treasures.

The minister is also aware of our criticism of the granting of tax concessions to the owner of an object that is designated as being of historical or cultural value in order to discourage him from exporting the object. I certainly do not object to the idea of granting tax concessions to those who donate such an object to a recognized museum or art gallery but, as I said to the minister in the debate in committee, I am worried that perhaps some speculators in art objects and historical treasures will be able to take advantage of the tax concession provisions in this bill and do something that the minister does not intend to be done in order to protect our historical treasures.

I am sorry that the minister was unable to accept my arguments in committee in an effort to try to close these loopholes. I have always commended the minister on being so co-operative and for his forward-thinking. We had an honest disagreement on this point. I hope I am not proven correct and that it will not be an avenue open to art speculators to take advantage of the situation under the provisions of this act. If that should occur, I know that the minister is a man who is reasonable enough so that when representations are made he will consider very seriously making appropriate amendments to the bill.

With those reservations, I conclude that the bill is in general a very good one. It is long overdue, but it represents an attempt to protect what we Canadians should be proud of from the point of view of our history and our art work. I hope that the bill will prove to be workable and successful in this area, and I commend the minister for finally introducing it and for his co-operation with the committee in ensuring its speedy passage.

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

[Translation]

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my party I want to congratulate the minister for introducing the legislation that all Canadians were probably expecting for some time.

Running through the bill I find the committee did an excellent job, and I hope the provisions contained in this bill will be implemented. It is not good enough, Mr. Speaker, to pass legislation, to introduce a bill; above all, it must be implemented.

Today, with the development of Canada, I think it is very important that we have a group of men, of technicians capable of monitoring the movements of our works of art since the purpose of the legislation is to protect our culture, our national heritage, for historical purposes.

History is the summary of our origins and the image of the ways and customs of our ancestors. So we must avoid, Mr. Speaker—and I think it will be the work of the commissioners—turning our works of art, our museum exhibits, into marketing goods. The lure of profit making is always dangerous. I again congratulate the minister when I see on this cultural property export list the proposed control on various items such as provided at sub-clause (a) on page 3:

(a) objects of any value that are of archeological, prehistorical, historical, artistic or scientific interest and that have been recovered from the soil of Canada, the territorial sea—

And at sub-clause (b):

(b) objects that were made by . . . the aboriginal peoples of Canada—

It is quite important for us Canadians to have souvenirs, works from all areas of this country. Just last week I visited an exhibition of Canadian Inuit and Indian natives works. They are marvelous works. Included also in those categories are:

(i) glassware, ceramics, textiles, woodenware and works in base metals that have a fair market value in Canada of more than five hundred dollars—

Mr. Speaker, excluded from the control list are all objects less than 50 years old. As long as an artist is intensively producing, and as long as his patrons are still living, a government could hardly meddle with his work. After a 50-year period, however, I feel that the government should keep an eye on the movements of his production, and I hope that the committee will be alert and the experts appointed to check the works of art wholly devoted to their task and careful not to become museum pieces themselves, for it is said that 50 years are necessary to become a museum piece. I hope that the senior experts, termed as "technocrats" by some, will not be around after 50 years to become museum pieces. This commission therefore will be working in the interest of Canadians and to safeguard our Canadian heritage throughout Canada.

● (1450)

[English]

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure you I will be brief, but there are a few things I want to say about this piece of legislation. First of all may I say how fortunate I felt to be able to participate in this particular committee. I think it was an excellent committee in terms of co-operation and sincerity, and I compli-