

At 2.30 o'clock the sitting was resumed.

**Hon. T. A. Crerar:** Honourable senators, let me say at once that my contribution to this debate will be brief.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** No, no.

**Hon. Mr. Crerar:** I am delighted that that remark meets with approval in at least one quarter of the house. In view of the number of important bills which we have yet to consider at this late date, I would certainly be showing a discourtesy to the house if I were to unnecessarily take up its time.

The amendments to the Canadian Broadcasting Act which we have under consideration at the moment appear to have developed largely out of the report of what is known as the Massey Commission, on the development of arts, letters and sciences in Canada. I do not fully agree, I must say, with the somewhat eulogistic references that the leader on this side has made to that report. I think the commission did a great deal of painstaking investigation, but of course there is room to qualify or to differ with the recommendations found in the report.

There seems to be abroad a curious notion that the implementation of this report will in some mysterious fashion help us to develop a culture. If I understand these amendments aright, they have in a substantial measure at least to do with that feature of the report.

In the first place, what is culture? We use such terms in a very generic sense. I took occasion to consult a standard dictionary as to the definition of "culture", and I found that it applies to many things, such as the productions of plants and the cultivation of the soil. But in the sense that we are asked to consider it today—and I would like my colleagues to note this carefully—the definition is this, "the training, improvement and refinement of mind, morals or taste". It is in this sense that the report of the Massey Commission deals with the matter, and there is of course room for interesting discussion as to how culture according to this definition can best be advanced.

We usually consider that in the matter of culture the countries of Europe, over the centuries, have made more substantial advancement than we of the North American Continent have made in our comparatively short and more recent growth, and that in those countries there is a keener understanding of the importance of the refinement of mind, of morals and of taste. The degree to which this refinement takes place in a country is a measure of that country's progress towards a higher civilization.

This development in other countries, I am bound to say, came about altogether without the assistance of the modern media of communication. The culture of France—probably the most cultured nation in the world—was not the product of radio broadcasting or television. The same is true of Italy, Great Britain and other countries. It is therefore a miscalculation to expect that the granting of an additional \$30 million to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the development of its radio and television services is any indication or any evidence that growth will take place in our culture. As a matter of fact, apart altogether from radio broadcasting—and of television, which we do not yet have—Canada has made substantial, if slow, progress towards culture as defined, namely, "training, improvement and refinement of mind, morals and tastes".

Such progress has come about through the voluntary efforts of people who have an appreciation of the importance of these things. We have seen advancement, for instance, in the field of music, in which for a great many years, festivals have been held where people gather and compete with each other, and where competent judges are present to pronounce upon their performances. We have had the development of drama, particularly through the medium of the Little Theatre movement in many towns and cities across Canada. We have had a quite remarkable development of the ballet. I venture to say that all these forms of advancement had no relation whatever to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, but developed simply because of an urge on the part of some people to reach out for the finer things of the spirit, and to give expression to their desires and their hopes.

The proposals contained in this measure may build up high expectations, but it has one feature which I think we must guard against. If any notion grows that we can rely on radio broadcasting—and on television when it comes—to advance culture in this country, it creates the very great danger—and I say this without criticism, implied or intended, of the C.B.C. management or its Board of Governors—that the control of this development will be largely in the hands of a comparatively few people.

In recent years we have had ample evidence of the tremendous and vital importance of radio-communication as a means of influencing mass opinion. The development of Hitler's Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Fascist Italy would not have been possible but for the radio. In more recent months, the suppression of liberty and freedom in the Argentine, once a democratic state, has been largely the product of mass appeal