

*Adjournment Debate*

report stage and third reading of the bills amending the Old Age Security Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act, subject to some discussion among the parties?

• (2200)

**Mr. Faulkner:** Mr. Speaker, I understand there has been no agreement among the parties on that point.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Did anyone try?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. For the moment we have to listen, with pleasure I am sure, to the hon. member for Athabasca.

### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

#### CANADIAN CULTURE—MULTICULTURALISM— MAINTENANCE OF RIGHTS OF CULTURAL GROUPS FOLLOWING TAKEOVER OF RADIO STATION CKSB BY CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, I want to raise an issue which has been the cause of a great deal of concern in certain parts of the country, particularly in Manitoba. It concerns the fact that in spite of the government's stated policy of acceptance of the concept of multiculturalism, this concept is not being applied in Manitoba. In fact, established rights of ethnic groups that have been accustomed to programming via the use of radio station CKSB have been lost. I have a letter here which expresses the situation clearly. I would like to quote from it, to explain the problem to whomsoever will be responding to it. It reads:

It is with great interest that we now note that radio station CKSB, St. Boniface, Manitoba, has been purchased by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Of course, notice of the intending purchase was given. However, the application for the approval of the purchase before the Canadian Radio and Television Commission was heard, not in Winnipeg, not in Manitoba, but in Montreal, Quebec. By holding the hearing in Montreal, interested parties in the Winnipeg area were almost entirely precluded from airing their opinions. In spite of this fact, six representations were made at the hearing by cultural groups opposed to the transfer in ownership.

For your information, radio station CKSB, St. Boniface, Manitoba, has for approximately 20 years sold time on the station so that programs in languages other than French and English might be broadcast in the Winnipeg area. You must bear in mind that Winnipeg is an area composed largely of non-English and non-French speaking people. Indeed, next to the English speaking majority, Ukrainian speaking and German speaking peoples represent the largest cultural groups in this area.

On Sunday, February 25th, 1973, the cultural groups who broadcast over radio station CKSB made their final broadcast over that station. Due to the transfer to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, non-French and non-English speaking groups are prohibited from using this station. For approximately 20 years the citizens of the Winnipeg area have been able to listen to radio broadcasts in Ukrainian, German, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, and Greek, to name but a few. The aforementioned groups are now forced to

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

either discontinue programming, or to broadcast over rural radio stations, some distance from Winnipeg.

The writer takes strong exception to the takeover of radio station CKSB by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Although the Prime Minister has expressed his belief in a multicultural Canada, the writer feels that he is doing no more than paying lip service to the principle of a multicultural Canada. It is for this reason that I write this letter to you, for it is my belief that if the letter was addressed to the Prime Minister's office, it would be ignored. The government, through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, is in fact taking steps to hinder multiculturalism in Canada rather than to promote it. By arbitrarily purchasing radio station CKSB, at a purchase price that is greatly inflated over the actual value of the radio station, the rights and privileges which the cultural groups of the Winnipeg area have enjoyed for decades are being destroyed. This cannot, and should not be tolerated. I strongly urge you to take the government to task for this flagrant and blatant step against multiculturalism in Canada.

This issue has been raised in the House on several occasions. Questions have been asked of the minister as to what he proposes to do about it. Unfortunately, the answers have been such that they do not give me the impression that he is being very aggressive about protecting the established, customary rights. I want to give you some examples, Mr. Speaker. On February 8 when he was asked about this matter, he replied:

Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this with my colleagues in the cabinet and everything possible is being done. . . I have made representations on this matter to the chairman of the CRTC.

He was asked again on February 15, and he replied:

Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting the report of the officials of the CBC on their multicultural programs.

The question was again raised on February 22. This time it was directed to the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) who replied in part:

—I think I would prefer to deal with that question when these various agencies are examined before the standing committee of the House.

Then the Minister of State (Mr. Haidasz), responsible for multiculturalism, said:

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of government policy and if anything is to be done it will be announced in the usual way.

Both ministers were questioned again today. The Minister of State gave his usual nothing answer and the Secretary of State followed suit. I want to read from section 38 of the Official Languages Act, Mr. Speaker, because this is what has been violated by the takeover of the station by the CBC. This section reads:

Nothing in this act shall be construed as derogating from or diminishing in any way any legal or customary right or privilege acquired or enjoyed either before or after the seventh day of September 1969 with respect to any language that is not an official language.

The customary right referred to in section 38 has obviously been taken away from various cultural groups. The CBC has taken the position that the Broadcasting Act forbids them to use other languages on their stations. They refer to the Broadcasting Act, section 3(e) of which reads:

(e) all Canadians are entitled to broadcasting service in English and in French—

Section 3(g)(iii) provides that the national broadcasting service should be in English and French, etc. It seems to me that in this particular case where the station is being taken over, there is a conflict between section 38 of the