

*Adjournment Debate*

the problem were as simple as those suggested by the hon. member.

There are, of course, a number of alternatives, one of which he suggested and which I have asked my officials and those in other departments to consider, because I do agree with him that it is a deplorable practice in many cases. But there is, of course, a possibility that people will innocently and in all good faith wish to enter into transactions with regard to government cheques as they do with other financial paper, and there is a question as to how restrictive we should be in preventing this practice. There are obviously some Canadians who wish to deal with government cheques in this way. Personally, I think they are unwise to do so.

In the case of income tax refunds, we are now aiming for the fastest possible processing of them, and in cases where income tax returns are properly completed there should be a refund in the hands of the taxpayer within approximately six weeks of the filing of the return where a refund is called for. Therefore, I might say to any taxpayer who has attempted to discount his refund that there is no reason to do so, the refund will be in his hands almost as quickly as if he were to deal with the discounter.

I have asked my officials to watch closely the returns which appear to be filed by discounters. It is questionable whether we should prevent refunds being sent to addresses other than those of the taxpayer, because there are many financial institutions in Canada in whose hands taxpayers have placed their financial affairs. There is some question about whether or not we should prevent their doing that.

Of course, one possibility is that provincial governments, including that of the province from which the hon. member comes, could deal with this matter on the basis of licensing and provincial law which, I might say, is somewhat clearer than the jurisdiction of the federal government in this respect. There was a prosecution by the Unemployment Insurance Commission, as the hon. member mentioned, which I believe was unsuccessful at the first stage and is under appeal. This illustrates the difficulty, under federal legislation, of proceeding against these practices.

I would urge the hon. member to exercise his influence on the provincial government of his own province to take action within its jurisdiction to curb such practices. In the meantime, my officials are exploring all possible avenues, including the one suggested by the hon. member, and if it appears that the federal government can properly restrain this kind of practice, I hope to propose a method of doing so or have one of my colleagues do so in the House at a later date.

It is matter of some complexity. We want to be sure that we do not unfairly restrict or restrain the ability of Canadians to deal with their own property, and particularly we want to avoid infringing upon the powers of the provinces in this respect. But I share the hon. member's concern. We will keep it under very close observation and we hope to achieve the same objective that he has in mind.

[Mr. Stanbury.]

CANADIAN CULTURE—MULTICULTURALISM—POLICY OF  
CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I am rising to speak on the matter of the sale of radio station CKSB, St. Boniface, to the publicly-owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It is not that I want to question or criticize the sale, but rather I want to take this opportunity to present to the Secretary of State responsible for multiculturalism, some of the viewpoints that multicultural groups have in respect to the use of the CBC and the broadcasting of multicultural programs.

CKSB was a privately-owned French station in Manitoba. In fact, it was owned by the parish of St. Boniface. In the last number of years, because of financial difficulties and other reasons the board of directors of CKSB sold air time to various multicultural groups for the broadcasting of programs which were specifically directed to multicultural groups in the Winnipeg and southern Manitoba area. Communities such as Polish, Ukrainian, German, Jewish, Portuguese and Italian used the radio station for these purposes, and the co-operation between the radio station and these various groups was exemplary.

There is a need for a second language radio station in Manitoba, a need which radio station CKSB was fulfilling. But because of the financial difficulties which the station was experiencing, the CBC stepped in and made a purchase offer to the board of directors and on March 29, 1973, the Canadian Radio-Television Commission approved the sale of the radio station. CKSB, now being a CBC-owned radio station, is to fulfill the following requirements:

The commission will therefore expect the station, as will be specified in the conditions of the licence, to complement network service with a substantial amount of programming originating from and designed for the French-speaking residents of this area.

I endorse this policy because the people in my riding have among them proportionately the second highest number of French-speaking Manitobans, and radio station CKSB, broadcasting in the French language, serves a vital purpose for these people. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, because of the policy of the CBC that it can only be used in the French or English language as far as broadcasting is concerned, these various multicultural groups which availed themselves of the services of CKSB now find themselves having to look elsewhere for broadcast privileges.

● (2220)

On February 22, 1973, as noted at page 1547 of *Hansard*, I asked the Minister of State in charge of multiculturalism (Mr. Haidasz) the following question, in part, with regard to the sale of CKSB:

As there are no hearings scheduled for Winnipeg on this matter, can the minister indicate to the House what alternatives he is proposing which would preserve the established customary rights of multicultural groups in the Winnipeg area?

The minister replied:

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

I am still waiting for that policy, Mr. Speaker. In a sense, the CRTC made policy on an interim basis, because on the announcement of the sale of CKSB to the CBC the commission stated: