

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

costs that it is necessary to charge and into the users which are genuinely capable of paying those costs without going under.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

● (1700)

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): It being 5 o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—
MOTIONS**

[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE

ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING SUB-COMMITTEE ON CBC

Mr. Edouard Desrosiers (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) moved that the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture establish a sub-committee for the purposes of reviewing the management of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the matter of the Corporation's programming:

1. That the sub-committee be empowered to hire professional and support staff;
2. That the sub-committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place in Canada for the purpose of visiting the Corporation's facilities;
3. That the sub-committee report back to the House directly; and
4. That the sub-committee be granted all necessary powers to undertake a comprehensive review of CBC's management and programming.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this motion is to deal with the problems at the CBC. Canadians across the country are all complaining about attitudes, management and programming at the CBC. I therefore think it is our duty to raise this matter today and to ask the Government to establish a sub-committee, first of all for the purpose of reviewing management and programming at the CBC. Of course, people will say this is political interference. Well, we have reached the point where our only choice is to take a hands-on approach.

The CBC costs Canadian taxpayers the astronomical sum of nearly one billion dollars annually. When will we have a Government with the courage and the will to change this state of affairs?

The House will recall that some years ago, even the Prime Minister at the time, the Right Hon. Mr. Trudeau, said that he was going to shut down the CBC. This problem has been around for a long time, and nobody does anything, says anything or changes anything. It is time we took charge, Mr. Speaker, that we set up a sub-committee of the people's democratically elected representatives, Canadian citizens who are here in the House, today, Mr. Speaker, representatives of the people who ask and insist that changes be made at the CBC. Something must be done.

You know, we have conservatories across the country where young musicians are trained for their future careers. At the CBC, whose prime objective is to promote Canadian culture . . . You watch television, Mr. Speaker, like the rest of us, like all Canadians, and we always see the same people, the same faces, the same group. There is a small clique there . . . Mr. Juneau has completely lost control. He has no authority whatsoever. There is a small clique of friends who produce programs and travel all over the world. They work with their performers here and there, and on top of that they are paid by the CBC to do programming. Not bad, eh!

That is why we are always looking at the the same individuals, the same faces. What are we going to do with our young musicians, our young singers and our old artists who are practically starving? They always use the same people, the same individuals. When they need someone to play the part of an old man they give him a wig and tell him: "Here you go, you play old man Gamache because you belong to the gang, you are one of the boys".

So it is, Mr. Speaker, and the Auditor General of Canada himself said that the worst management can be found in the CBC. Even today's papers report Mr. Juneau as saying that the CBC is in a dramatic situation. Dramatic it is! I would not know who should be blamed for this dramatic situation, but he is right there, he is the man in charge.

Here is what I read in *Le Devoir* this morning: Former President Johnson really shocked members of the seminar when he explained how "the national dream, created fifty years ago when the Canadian broadcasting system was established, has become a national disgrace". Those are the words of former CBC President Johnson, as reported in *Le Devoir* this morning!

Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives can certainly not be held responsible for that mess. The Liberal regime lasted long enough, we know better.

Mr. Rossi: You have been there for a year and a half, Edouard, so what have you done?

Mr. Desrosiers: If anyone ought to be aware of those problems, it has to be the Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi).

Mr. Rossi: I am aware.

Mr. Desrosiers: You were in that Government. You supported all those policies. And when did you stand up to defend your Italian friends, the great Italian artists we have in Canada? When did you rise in the House to speak up for those people? They have every right to promote their culture in this country—

Mr. Rossi: We have not seen you for a month. Do not say anything, you are not in a position to speak up, you have not been in the House for a whole month!

Mr. Desrosiers: Yes, my dear, we know you. We know your kind . . . You have been here for quite a long time as the