

Clause 45(1) states:

The Board shall establish a standing committee of directors on English language broadcasting and a standing committee of directors on French language broadcasting, each consisting of the Chairperson, the President and such other directors as the Board may appoint.

Subclauses (2) and (3) speak to who shall preside and who shall preside in the absence of the chairperson or the president.

Subclause (4) states:

The standing committee on English language broadcasting shall perform such duties in relation to English language broadcasting, and the standing committee on French language broadcasting shall perform such duties in relation to French language broadcasting, as are delegated to the committee by the by-laws of the Corporation.

● (1100)

In speaking to the first amendment moved by Senator Stewart earlier today, Senator MacDonald (Halifax) expressed some surprise that such an amendment had been moved. He suggested that none of the witnesses who appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications with respect to this bill had offered any complaints. Because a key witness who appeared before the committee—namely, the president of the CBC—complained and expressed very serious reservations on behalf of the directors of the corporation with respect to clause 45, perhaps Senator MacDonald would change his mind with respect to this particular amendment, which I shall be moving in a moment.

I should like to quote from remarks made by the president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation when he appeared before the committee on January 15. He was talking about the concerns of the CBC and stated:

The first of those items and the one upon which I can safely say that the CBC's Directors have the greatest concern is the provision in section 45 which calls for the establishment of standing committees of the Directors on English-language broadcasting and French-language broadcasting . . . "In section 3(1)(i) of the Bill, the Corporation is called upon to serve the interests of all Canadians, by reflecting Canada and its regions and contributing to shared national consciousness and identity."

Mr. Veilleux went on to say:

In our view, the creation of separate committees on French and English programming would run counter to the spirit of those objectives and would introduce at the Board level a division which would be counter-productive, particularly at this point in time . . . "We believe it should be left to the Board of the CBC to determine the most appropriate means of meeting the goals set for the CBC and that this provision of section 45 of the Bill represents an infringement of that necessary freedom. Further, we feel that the exercise of responsibility for French and English language programming by these committees

would run counter to the proper responsibilities of the Board as a whole." Accordingly we would recommend—"we," the CBC board of directors,

—the deletion of section 45 from the Bill.

As I said the other day, honourable senators, the CBC has always had an unwritten tradition of collegiality between directors who are representative of the two founding languages, but there is a big difference between an unwritten tradition of collegiality and the entrenchment of permanent, separate decision-making at the very heart of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. I am afraid that by passing this bill and including this particular clause we are merely contributing to further balkanization, to permanent division, as I said the other day, to a permanent rupture, to unnecessary misunderstandings and tensions at this time—at this fragile, crucial time in the history of our country.

Accordingly, honourable senators, I move:

That the Bill C-40 be not now read the third time but that it be amended as follows:

Page 29, clause 45: Strike out lines 4 to 28 and renumber the subsequent clauses, and any cross-references thereto, accordingly.

MOTION IN AMENDMENT NEGATIVED

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: It is moved by the Honourable Senator Atkins, seconded by the Honourable Senator Cochrane, that the bill be now read the third time.

In amendment, it is moved by the Honourable Senator Graham, seconded by the Honourable Senator Lefebvre:

That the bill C-40 be not now read the third time but that it be amended as follows:

Page 29, clause 45: Strike out lines 4 to 28 and renumber the subsequent clauses, and any cross-reference thereto, accordingly.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Senators: Yes.

Some Hon. Senators: No.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Will those honourable senators in favour of the motion in amendment please say "yea"?

Some Hon. Senators: Yea.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Will those honourable senators who are against the motion in amendment please say "nay"?

Some Hon. Senators: Nay.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: In my opinion, the "nays" have it. I declare the motion in amendment negatived, on division.

Motion in amendment negatived, on division.