

of the Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Schellenberger), one would think that we were debating something about mouse traps.

However, we know that this is far more serious than that because mass meetings have been held in a way that has never occurred in the history of this country in the arts and cultural field. Never before has there been such an expression of spontaneous outrage in place from British Columbia to Halifax. I suggest that the Government is playing at pretense when it acts surprised that there is some kind of problem here. It is not taking seriously the issue that has been put forward today, the issue about which the public is concerned and, above all, about which the industry and its people are concerned.

The outrage goes beyond the entertainment industry and to the public because finally it is beginning to dawn upon the average Canadian that what we are seeing here threatens each and every Canadian, not merely the people in that industry.

The more people realize what is happening, the more they realize that this is not just simply a discussion about fat cats, power struggles or a group of 40 people who went to the Cannes Festival. It is not about wealthy performers and dilettantes. Canadians are beginning to realize that what is increasingly at stake is not only the survival of a few jobs or even an industry, but our entire nation as a culture and its survival.

National survival is at stake. I suggest that successive Liberal Governments over the decades have worked arduously to free Canada from foreign captivity, to overcome the doubt and confusion as to whether we are American, British or both. We have had to affirm that proud though we are of our heritage from Britain and France, and pleased though we are to be friends of the United States of America, we are neither French, British nor American, but Canadian.

We have had to battle enemies from within and from without. We were able to defeat separatism from within our nation by a referendum. We assured a large part of the population that they were not part of Britain or the United States but part of a nation called Canada, free and independent, a country where francophones could play a significant role. While we are a small nation we assured them that they had a part in it, and a significant part in it.

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We also had to beat the reactionaries who wanted to cling to the past. Over the years the Tories persistently personified that reaction with their constant and sometimes hysterical resistance. As my colleague said so well this morning, there was a flag debate and we were finally able to get a Canadian flag. Then there was the battle with the Tories over *O Canada*, which would become our national anthem. Bit by bit the Tories retreated, and finally as the forces of Canadianism advanced, they allowed a Canada Day after some resistance. Their last battle was the Constitution and the Charter of Rights, a battle that was interrupted by rather noisy bells at times. I happened to be part of that debate but while a real rear-guard resistance was made, we made Canada a nation that had its own Constitution housed in Canada and its own

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Charter of Rights. We established the principles of a nation based on multiculturalism.

I suggest that Liberal Governments fought step by step to move us toward a Canadian identity. It is what the people wanted.

A Canadian identity demands Canadian independence. Unless we are masters of our own economy, of our own environment and our own way of life, free from external blackmail, bribery and takeovers, we cannot call our souls our own. That is why we moved as Liberals, to try to encourage Canadians into the energy field and we increased Canadian ownership of the oil fields from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. That is why we established FIRA to set up standards to make sure that foreign investment would not be detrimental to Canadians and would encourage a Canadian presence in business conducted in Canada.

When you realize that Canada, as Mel Hurtig has testified and proven, has a higher percentage of foreign ownership than any other nation, it is no wonder that we took steps to try to correct that imbalance.

Yes, we are a small nation and we are vulnerable because of our size. That does not mean we have to succumb.

While Canadian independence and Canadian survival depend on our ability to prevent encroachment and subservience to foreign domination, whether it is military or financial domination, the most critical area of all is our ability to maintain our cultural identity. Culture means not only music and fine arts. It also means media, entertainment, radio, television, books, journals, cable TV, advertising, and everything and anything that reaches the ears, the eyes, the senses and the minds of our children, of our seniors, of our young, and of our middle-aged alike. That is where our identity and our national soul is reached. That is true today even more than before.

Some people think we are making too much of some cuts to the CBC and cuts in grants to the National Film Board and the Canada Council, as well as cuts in grants to individuals and groups of artists across the country, but these cuts are cutting into the morale, the infrastructure and the survival of an industry with a great potential for the future both here and abroad. Broadcasting, media entertainment, information, art and culture make up the fourth largest industry in this nation. It has an important export market as well, one that is highly labour-intensive.

Contrary to the stereotypes that people have of rich actors, directors, fat cat bureaucrats, what the Tories have hit are the lowest paid in the economy, our artists and entertainers. Two hundred and seventy-three thousand Canadians identified themselves as holding cultural arts related occupations in 1981. The number being hit by this Government's policy is far greater than 273,000. This Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) has destroyed jobs, not created them. It is not only the jobs that are being destroyed, but the industry itself. If you tear away such basic structures as the CBC, you tear away the infrastructure needed to maintain a viable, modern Canadian