

entrepreneurs, by films, paperbacks, radio and television, and at times, from our own C.B.C.

It is a major problem in the performing arts to balance freedom of expression against licence of action. It is my own view that whatever standards may be applicable in the private sector, there are other standards which should be applied where the public is paying the bill. In my view, the public has a right not only to scrutinize the bill, as it will do through Parliament, in respect of the expenditures of this centre, but a right to insist that the bill of fare be reasonably related to its own general good taste.

That is not an easy balance to achieve. In my opinion the present troubles of the C.B.C. are almost entirely due to its failure to achieve that balance. Perhaps a good motto for the new centre would be, "Liberty to express but not licence to offend."

I am also pleased to note that the bill places heavy emphasis on the national character that the centre is to attain. That also will not be easy to achieve, yet somehow it must be accomplished. The whole project will be a failure if it becomes just one more government institution in Ottawa.

I am sure that in time it will succeed. The management will have the fine example of Stratford, which has sent its good works across Canada almost since its inception. Another example is the National Art Gallery, which I believe has 40 exhibitions on tour in Canada. The National Museum is moving encouragingly in the same direction. Even the National Library in its short existence has placed the same kind of emphasis on its service to the whole country.

The bill has been carefully designed to place a specific statutory obligation on the trustees and management of this centre to make it something that will benefit all Canada. I say that this is not going to be an easy task, but I suggest to honourable senators that it is one of the most important obligations the bill places on management. I hope that this obligation to make the National Arts Centre a truly national institution will always be in the minds of those who have its responsibility in their charge.

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, first of all I wish to thank Senator MacKenzie for assuming the responsibility of sponsoring this bill and for the comprehensive and able way in which he did so. I also thank Senator Cameron for the suggestions he made, which will be brought to the atten-

tion of the Government. We are indeed grateful to Senator Grosart for the trouble he has taken to put his views upon record; they also will be of help.

Without wishing to be contentious, Senator Grosart said it was a matter of inertia and red tape that prevented the completion of the centre in Ottawa in the centennial year.

This was a deliberate but regrettable decision which had to be taken as a result of the work being done in other places for the centennial year. I refer particularly to the demand for supplies and for labour in connection with the international exposition in Montreal. This and many other public works in this area had to be cut back, because supplies, both of labour and of materials, created a serious problem. In fact, it would have added even more to inflationary pressures if these steps had not been taken. It was with regret that this step had to be taken, but it was felt that in the national interest it must be.

Honourable senators, I claim no special credit to the Government for moving this project forward as quickly as it could be done, or for bringing it on at this time. It is one of those steps in the progress of national development that every government in office would want to take. I am very pleased indeed that this step has been taken.

As an old Ottawa resident, I might argue about the location chosen. However, having heard from people who apparently know about the proper use of land in Ottawa, in the end I believe this will be a good place for it. I doubted this before and I am not thoroughly convinced yet. However, perhaps wiser minds than mine have prevailed.

There is a good deal here in Ottawa now, as Senator Grosart has indicated, which reflects the national desire and the national aspiration to emphasize the spiritual, intellectual, and cultural sides of national activity. The National Gallery, the National Museum, the National Library, the National Archives, all are monuments to this. I believe in monuments. I believe in the voices of silence, which is a good way to express it, of a people. The voices of silence of the ancient people have told us so much in their works on stone, in the way in which they conceived their architecture, their buildings, about the state of intellectual development which they had achieved. In some cases we have not really caught up with what they did many centuries ago.