

supporters feel that public broadcasting would be more vulnerable to political control.

There has been a lot of discussion around the appointment of chief executive officers in arm's length Crown corporations, particularly those in the cultural milieu. The Nielsen report recommended that chief executive officers of national cultural institutions be appointed by the board of those agencies upon consultation with the minister responsible.

The Caplan-Sauvageau report supported the Nielsen recommendation. However the president and chief executive officers said they should be appointed by and be responsible to the board of directors in recognition of the principle of arm's length.

Our fourth report stated in concurring with the recommendation of Caplan-Sauvageau that:

Creative autonomy in a publicly funded broadcasting organization is a precious commodity that must be protected not only from real compromise but also from the slightest hint or appearance of compromise.

This is not to say that the appointments were not fine appointments. They were. I would sincerely hope that the same appointments would have been made following consultation, but I think the provision is there. We may not some day have such an enlightened government able to find such competent people.

The additional flaws that I bring to the minister's attention are the recognition of Radio Canada International, the Parliamentary Television Network and Northern Services within the CBC mandate. This bill provides no recognition of those. Both Caplan-Sauvageau and standing committee recommended that these services be incorporated in broadcasting legislation.

I believe each of these services are key to Canada and that by stating them specifically within legislation official recognition and continuity of service are clearly confirmed by Parliament, whether under the public or private sector joint financing. That is not the issue. The issue is that those services are on our screens or in our radio system.

As to programming in representative native languages, the bill recognizes the right of Canada's aboriginal peoples to receive programming that reflects their culture within the Canadian broadcasting system. It does not provide for such services to be in representative native languages where numbers warrant and as public

funds become available. Liberals believe that support of aboriginal languages and through them the transmission of native cultures is so important that the new Broadcasting Act must provide such strong affirmation and the role of the CBC be reaffirmed in that area.

A further critique is that the introduction of that new alternative programming service is an idea that truly has merit. The need for increased cultural and artistic programming is real, but it is totally unrealistic at this time when the CBC is suffering major cut-backs and having difficulty in fulfilling not only its legislative mandate but its CRTC licence commitments. Further, why is such a service defined in the law? We have specialty services. We have pay television services. They exist and are not defined in legislation. Whose ego is to be served here?

Liberals are not saying no to an alternative service which could be very enriching, but the dollars are not there. This type of service should be addressed through the normal CRTC licensing process, including a full public hearing.

• (1350 )

We have said that one of the most serious omissions is the extent of the ownership and control by Canadians. It fails to require that all broadcasting undertakings be at least 80 per cent owned and effectively controlled by Canadians, and that no single foreign shareholder may own more than 10 per cent of the shares in any broadcasting undertaking. That has been the concept behind the law since 1958. It was directed under a CRTC cabinet direction in section 22 of the 1968 act. I believe that such important Canadian ownership criteria should be written into that act now to ensure that the will of Parliament is understood for now and evermore. It should not be tampered with.

We believe that by writing this requirement into legislation an open, public debate would then be required before any changes could be made.

I also bring to the minister's attention the question of foreign networks. They certainly should be licensed. Cable networks like CNN, Nashville Network, Arts and Entertainment, about 17 or 18 of them, are doing business in Canada without being required to obtain a licence from the CRTC. However, Canadian satellite networks, TSN and Much Music must. Liberals find this to be unfair.