

*CBC Programming*

**Mr. MacFarlane:** Incidentally, these young people are very polite. They do not interrupt. They just usually wait until I stop talking and then ask me about the salary raises. They are very honest.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Are you Irish?

**Mr. MacFarlane:** No, I am actually a Canadian who is proud of his Scottish heritage. In fact I am going after multiculturalism for assistance to buy bagpipes for Hamilton Mountain. I think this is a good idea.

I would like to say that I do not accept any undue exploitation. I am the last person who would believe in any form of censorship of any undue sensationalism. If you think honestly of the kind of letters you receive as a member of parliament you will know the kind of issues that are referred to in them. These are letters you receive from people who are very concerned about a specific issue.

Sometimes the people who do not write are sort of in agreement with what is occurring, or do not have any real comment to make. If you took your letters on a particular issue and threw them on the table—and you know that they would go right through the whole social gambit, right through from the bill on oil to the letters you get from Alberta as against those from Ontario—you would not get a fair sampling of the criticism of a program. I suggest you would have received a real bombardment and a real playing up of the very things on the program we are saying should not be exploited by the CBC. I think it is very dangerous to just ask for the presentation of documents which are indeed letters from people who are complaining.

I appreciate the sincerity of the hon. member for Brandon-Souris. I am sure he is making a point here. I think many of us are going to take a good look at the CBC. I have other questions to ask which do not concern this subject. I know that we will take heed of some of the things he has mentioned, but I really do not believe in the production of the documents.

I want to say that it is very important, and I hope I say this loud and clear so it is printed in many places, that we know that the young people who watch Kung Fu, and some of the things that some of us suggest are the violent things, do see in some of those things a bit of a morality play, the same as when playing "the King of the Castle," with the hope that the good guy wins. It is not a bad thing for them to have imagination and the desire to end up in good places. There is enough tragedy as you move through life without clouding it there.

The moment of enjoyment for these young people is not the moment where they grab flies and tear their legs off, as the people told us in the old days. I think we have to respect that. I would like to say on the other hand that the CBC in drama, in some of its presentations and earlier documentaries, as well as the new ones coming up, is not excelled in the world, and when we are talking about something we should not destroy the thing itself by trying to get at some of the appendages on the outside which we think should not be thrown at us.

The CBC does not need to throw at our generation, the young and the older people, some of the smut that is being shown today. There is no need to use rough language in the non-poetic way to make no points but just to use rough

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

language. I agree with the hon. member completely in that regard.

By the same token I think a sensitive treatment of anything such as sexual relations of a man, a woman, people on this earth can be treated in the most beautiful of fashions. There are many, many ways in which this can be treated in an artistic way to bring home the fact that after all God's people do love, do experience, and that it is physical without being evil. The CBC does not need to do to us some of the things it is doing, and that is just trying to make something into a purely flesh experience for excitement, and to grab the attention of people who are less interested in the true artistic process of seeing the realism of theatre.

**Mr. Roger Young (Niagara Falls):** Madam Speaker, I trust that members will forgive me if I take a big gulp of air as I have just rushed back from a committee meeting in the west block. I would like to follow up some of the comments made by the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. MacFarlane). I also have a great deal of trouble when I look at some of these motions for the production of papers, particularly in respect of a matter like this.

The first question that really comes to my mind is: having produced all these other letters, if they were to be produced, of what real value or benefit would that be? I think hon. members must realize that there are people in this country who are sincerely concerned about the programming we find on our national network. I think that is a valid concern. When they spend their evenings watching a few hours of television they want to be adequately and properly entertained, and not bothered by what they see.

It strikes me that each and every one of us in this country has the first and primary solution to this problem in respect of the content of television programming right within our grasp. If you do not like the program, or you do not like what you see, you can reach out with your fingers and turn the knob to the off position. You are then no longer bothered by what is there. I sometimes wonder whether this whole issue raised by some people does not involve their own attitudes which drive them to antagonize themselves by continuing to listen and watch programs they do not enjoy. This is particularly true when the opportunity is available in the first place for them to turn the set off rather than continue to watch, thus allowing the program to bother them. That is the easiest solution.

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I think one must also remember that before considering the problem of turning the knob on or off it is necessary to buy the television set or radio in order to receive the program. I might again comment on what I said first gave me the most difficulty in this regard. I wonder what it is we should do with the letters and documents which are raising such a great issue. As a member of the broadcasting committee which interviewed Mr. Picard and his officials some two or three weeks ago I know that this situation, or problem if you like, was quite clearly aired before the committee. I do not recall that the hon. member who moved the motion attended those two committee meetings and raised any questions.