

constituencies. If there are no studios in their areas, I am sure that a visit could be arranged to the Ottawa studios.

What I want to emphasize is that there does exist simpler and less onerous ways than the creation of another committee to review the CBC's activities. It is not as though the CBC operates by itself year after year without reporting to Parliament. Every year the Minister tables the CBC's annual report, to which is attached a financial report certified by the Auditor General of Canada.

Furthermore, officials of the Department of Communications are in constant contact with the CBC on all aspects of its activities as they relate to public inquiries directed to the Minister as well as to the development of communications and culture for Canada in both the domestic and international spheres.

May I remind this House that CBC reports to Parliament through the Minister of Communications and that the Minister of Communications exerts control over expenditure levels of the CBC by making recommendations to the Treasury Board on proposed program expenditure levels of the Corporation? The Minister also makes recommendations to the Governor in Council regarding remuneration and pension benefits, and must approve all CBC by-laws concerning such matters.

● (1800)

As well, the corporation's capital budget is approved by the Governor in Council upon recommendation of the Minister of Communications, the Minister of Finance and the President of the Treasury Board.

In addition, every year the President of the CBC appears before the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture and provides the members with the opportunity to question the CBC's achievement of its objectives as well as its operations. As for the review of the CBC programming service, it is normally done on a regular basis—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I am sorry to interrupt the Parliamentary Secretary.

[Translation]

The time allotted for Members' Private Business has now expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 46 deemed to have been moved.

Adjournment Debate

PUBLIC SERVICE (A) CAREER PLANNING FOR EMPLOYEES
FACING LAYOFFS. (B) JOB SECURITY

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the question I wish to raise this evening in the adjournment debate is further to a question put in the House on October 8, 1985, reported at page 7455 of *Hansard*, which deals with an important and timely subject, namely, jobs in the Public Service of Canada and the burning issue of job cuts in the public service.

For some time now, Mr. Speaker, both in the media and here in the House, there has been constant talk of the many cuts made by the Conservative Government in the Public Service of Canada. For instance, a few weeks ago we were informed of 3,000 layoffs at Canada Post, 5,000 at Transport Canada, 1,150 at Customs and most recently, in referring to the 1,500 jobs cut within his own department, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie) stated in this House on October 3, as reported at page 7297 of *Hansard*, and I quote:

We want the 1,500 jobs and more for Indian people, not federal bureaucrats.

On October 8, I asked the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) what kind of career planning he had in mind for public servants affected by these arbitrary cutbacks, cutbacks based on certain percentages and involving numbers as high as 15,000 jobs over 15 years, a decision we find absolutely cruel and hard to accept. I asked him whether he had a plan to help these public servants retrain and find other jobs within the Public Service of Canada. The Minister answered, as reported at page 7455 of *Hansard* of October 8, 1985, and I quote again:

Regarding workforce adjustment policies as well as most of the other commitments we have undertaken vis-à-vis the unions, we have worked out a policy that provides for the kind of pre-notice, retraining and recycling within the Public Service that will minimize the adjustment of these workers to an obviously difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also recall that not so long ago, it was October 8, hardly a week ago, I asked the President of the Treasury Board whether those same public servants laid off in accordance with his program of employee cutbacks, a program which, and I say it again, was arbitrary, would be put on a priority list and whether they would get the support and help of the Public Service Commission in finding a job within the Government's departments and agencies.

The Minister gave me the assurance that everything was being done to help them find jobs within the public service, that notice periods had been negotiated with the unions to provide for the most complete retraining available, and that, and these are the Minister's own words, out of 3,000 public servants laid off since November 1984, only 130 had not yet been recycled.

Mr. Speaker, this matter seemed to me to be important because it affects a great many civil servants who are concerned about their future in the Federal Civil Service. I was