

that we are prepared to discuss this issue with them anywhere and anytime.

Over the past few weeks, Mr. Speaker, debates were held in 26 Quebec CEGEPs, and in most cases, the elected Liberal members did not have the guts to appear before the students. They had to send in their some insignificant party hacks. I can tell you that my friend from the NDP and my colleagues of the Bloc Québécois took part in these debates. We did not ask the CBC to do our own job. The fact is that these people are desperate, that they cannot find anyone to transmit their message and they would gladly avail themselves of the federal government's resources.

Mr. Speaker, that happened before and I must confess that literally at the time the Canadian Unity Information Centre dumped millions upon millions of dollars on Quebec. A gentleman named Paul Tellier was in charge then but now the situation is different; such abuses were tolerated in the 1980s but today they would be totally unacceptable.

And I say to the Federalists: Go ahead, promote your convictions, but do not try this time to use Ottawa's spending power to buy the support of Quebecers. You would simply fail. Every effort to buy their support would result in a massive rejection. It is not without reason that the vision defended by the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada only has a mere 6 per cent support in Quebec. This is not CBC's fault but that of the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada himself, with 6 per cent. Even if he appeared every night on the CBC television network, he would not convince anybody. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I say to them: Do not try using federal taxpayers' money to put one over. Use the power of your convictions. The time for propaganda is over!

[English]

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, it is a relief to get up to speak. I can only say that the unmitigated balderdash to which we have just been treated by the hon. member for Shefford needs some response, even if it does dignify such nonsense by even mentioning it.

I am enthralled by the clear belief that the member who just spoke has absolutely no regard for journalistic integrity, obviously no regard for the professionalism of journalists who work for the CBC, and clearly no regard

Government Orders

for journalists in general. I am glad to see the hon. member for Halifax West applauding. I trust that the hon. member for Halifax West holds the view I do. I would presume he does, that Canadian unity is a good thing. Perhaps he does not. No doubt he will have a chance to say so himself.

It is a tragedy in this country today that people are asking from one coast to the other, east and west, north and south, inside Quebec and outside Quebec: "Who speaks for Canada". When did it become a crime in the minds of members of this Chamber to speak out in favour of Canadian unity? When did it become some sort of disgrace, to quote the member who spoke previously, some propaganda, to be in favour of the survival and the flourishing of this country?

I cannot believe that anyone who would sit here in this House, who would stand in this House and speak or claim to speak for Canadians, could actually stand and argue against Canadian unity. It is a sad time that we have come to, if this is the case in this country today.

The mandate of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for Canadian unity is something that has been with us for a very long time. It is something that the past president of the CBC, Pierre Juneau, said did not in any way interfere with the workings of the corporation in serving its various and multicultural audience.

On May 16, *The Ottawa Citizen* reported that the CBC is an agent for Canadian unity. It must remain that way as a bulwark against various decentralizing forces. Everybody who sits in this Chamber knows what the decentralizing forces are. There are hundreds of them. There are the questions of language, culture, geography, and regionalism which every single one of us in our home provinces and here in Ottawa have dealt with and continue to deal with on a daily basis.

The things that pull us apart are part and parcel of our experience as Canadians. They make us who we are. To quote Andrew Coyne in *The Financial Post*, "they make us know that we are us, that we are imperfect and that we have a multitude of problems", but they also make us know that we have survived for 123 years and, please God, we will survive as long as this earth survives. Mind you, with this government, that may be a problem as well.