

● (1530)

I know that the people of Canada like *Reader's Digest*. I have had some of the most thoughtful letters from my constituents and other Canadians about *Reader's Digest*. I do not think it solves the story to say that it was a brilliant promotion job by Mr. Zimmerman. The letters I received indicated people had thought a good deal about this. One person wrote and said it is the only thing that is good bedtime reading. Some people have insomnia; they have the cares of the world on their shoulders and cannot get to sleep quickly. Sometimes they make the mistake of picking up a mystery and then cannot get to sleep. That is how I began reading Agatha Christie. This person who wrote to me said you can read one article in the *Reader's Digest* and not only remember it in the morning but go to sleep untroubled. People have a perfect right to like *Reader's Digest*. The same is true of *Time* magazine.

Another aspect is that this bill may injure publications that are of real value to Canadians. I am going to refer without hesitation or reservation to what I consider the finest newspaper in the world, the *Christian Science Monitor*. It has the finest international section. I am sure the Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier), a great newspaper man, will agree with me on this. It has topnotch articles. It has a most enlightened, highly trained cadre of journalists and reporters. It does not advertise tobacco, which is proper. It does not advertise alcohol, for which I will forgive it. In fact, it does not advertise anything it does not think is suitable and proper for the buying public.

It is noted the world over for the depth of its perception and the objectivity of its coverage. While the Christian Science movement is a very important portion of the Christian church, it does not use its newspaper to propagate its particular religious teachings. There is but one small section in each issue. They go from language to language through the issues dealing with Christian science. Under present circumstances, that paper is sold in Canada with a subsidy from the Christian Science Society. They put in about \$76 a year for a paper which sells in Canada for \$40 per year. Therefore, there is \$36 subsidy per newspaper from the Christian Science publishing house.

Since 1966 the *Christian Science Monitor* has enjoyed exemption from the provisions of subsection 19(1) of the Income Tax Act by virtue of a ruling from the Department of National Revenue to the effect that it qualified for exemption under subsection 19(4). However, as we all know, subsection 19(4) is being repealed under Bill C-58. Nothing is put in its place. The exemption which was granted the *Christian Science Monitor* will therefore disappear. I believe that any government which cared for the enlightenment and edification of its citizens would take no step to make it difficult for the *Christian Science Monitor* to be read by Canadians, but would take steps which would make it easier for that splendid journal of thought and opinion to be read by the people of this country. Therefore, that aspect disturbs me.

I find a great deal of difficulty in being totally condemnatory of this bill or taking the opposite point of view. We are often faced with that in this House. One occasion is when you are presented with an omnibus bill, three items of which you think are great, two of which you do not

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agree with and four of which you are opposed to—and you can do nothing but vote for the whole thing. That is a real distortion of the logical process.

I think the goal is a good one. I am not suspicious of this minister's intentions. I am not sure that we have yet achieved the right conceptualization. I am always a little bit worried about something that looks like a maple leaf curtain over the forty-ninth parallel.

We maritimers are a bit leery about tariffs on economic goods because we began to get it in the neck when we were told over 100 years ago that we had to erect tariff walls to protect the infant industries of Ontario. Some of those industries have died of old age but the tariff walls are still there and we are still suffering from them.

I am a little troubled about some of the negative approaches. There is a little too much reliance on the tariff syndrome. I would also say, as was mentioned a few days ago, that part of the trouble started for our publications when the Hon. Eric Kierans was postmaster general. I may be pardoned for saying "I told you so" at the time of the severe increase in postal rates for publications. Church publications and many others have suffered from that unjust and unnecessary imposition.

My colleague, the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay (Mr. Johnston), referred to *Time* magazine the other day and its performance in the 1963 election. I thought it was *Newsweek* which had done its worst on that one, but I would not say that *Time* magazine was alone in presenting distorted views on what goes on in the Canadian political scene. There are Canadian magazines and newspapers whose reporters and editors might just as easily be stationed in Lhasa or Ulan Bator as far as really stating what goes on. This is especially true around election time.

Mr. Woolliams: Name some.

Mr. Macquarrie: If I had more time I would name a great many at the invitation of my colleague, the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams). I could give quite a compendium. But I have been known in this House for never exhausting all my time. I will not say what I may do to my auditors, but I have never exhausted all my time. I want to keep up that tradition, if I maintain nothing else of a virtuous type here in parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macquarrie: I might say on this measure that the best and most sincere recommendation I can give the minister is that he take the bill under further scrutiny. It is obvious that members of his own caucus are giving a great deal of thought to the matter. They are coming up with some very excellent suggestions. The minister has been given some very good advice by members of my party, particularly the chief spokesman, the hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

● (1540)

I have gone over some of the points which have been raised. The suggestion that the government make greater advertising use of our own periodicals is, I think, a splendid one. I was a little surprised to hear *Reader's Digest* criticized for sending its articles to be translated into