

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, that is a very important question. I do not have any assurance that this Government is going to protect the independence of the CBC. The cultural cut-backs we have seen, not only to the CBC but to other cultural agencies, bother me a great deal. They say they are independent of the cuts they have received from the Government, but I am not too sure they are.

The first responsibility of the Government is to ensure that the CBC has adequate funding to carry out its mandate. Second, Members of Parliament have a responsibility to be vigilant in ensuring that the Government does not interfere in a ham-handed fashion with the CBC so that it is able to maintain its independent existence. At the same time, the Government has the responsibility for being able to issue broad policy directives to the CRTC.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a brief comment on my colleague's speech. He mentioned the plans of the CBC to cut the program *Our Native Land*. I wonder how a Government that claims to be interested in the people who are in greatest need in this country, which claims to be committed to consulting before taking action, can stand idly by while executives from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation slash a program that is crucial to the native community in this country. Native people are spread across this land in small populations. This program has been one way of developing a sense of national community among native people. It serves as a vital commission link for native people. I am glad my colleague mentioned that in his comments. I wish the Government would wake up and make clear its priorities and the fact that it will not stand for this kind of savage cutting of programs that people need.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to reinforce the comment of my colleague and underline the fact that if there are going to be these budget cuts, we will be seeing program cuts that are very detrimental to the Canadian public.

Mr. Hovdebo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my colleague. Does he believe it is possible that the CRTC could retain its independence and at the same time have the Government establish a control over the kind of cuts that can be made in programming? If so, how would that be possible?

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, we were very concerned about the way in which the Minister of Communications interfered with the CRTC in cutting some of the programs. He indicated the way in which he wanted the cuts to be implemented. The Government's responsibility is to provide adequate funding, as I said before, so that the CBC can carry out its mandate.

● (1700)

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

Car Emission Controls

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS— MOTIONS

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Is there unanimous consent for the House to proceed to Item No. 66?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Agreed.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ADVISABILITY OF ENACTING CAR EMISSION CONTROLS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should proclaim for the 1987 car models, the same car emission controls already in place in the United States, and to educate consumers and the public in order to reduce nitrous oxide in gasoline by 1987.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your having called this Bill. As we all know, we have only one environment and it is one that we wish to preserve. We also realize that if we damage environment at the rate we are now going, there will be little left for us and for future generations to enjoy in the manner in which we have enjoyed the environment so far.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, acid rain is slowly but surely killing our lakes, rivers, forests, agricultural lands, structures and buildings and the very air that we breathe. Car emissions contribute to acid rain. Our economy depends so much on our natural resources. Therefore, our common goal must be to clean up this stuff that we emit into the air.

Pollution is not partisan; it affects every one of us. It affects the health of people we love; our wives and husbands, children and grandchildren. It affects the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor. It does not discriminate. For these reasons, I call on the Government to proclaim for the 1987 car models at least the same car emission controls already in place in the United States, and to generate support among consumers and the public in order to get their full co-operation in reducing nitrogen oxide emissions in cars sold and used in Canada as of the year 1987.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) must intervene in the present departmental squabble between four departments. Two of these departments would like to move fast, and these are the Department of the Environment and the Department of National Health and Welfare. Two are dragging their feet namely, the Department of Transport and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) has been evasive and non-committal. The Minister of State for Transport (Mr. Bouchard), as we heard last Friday during Question Period, does not know about this important file. Both Ministers seem to shift their responsibility for making a decision to that forlorn, uninspired Minister of