

This is a wonderful reflection of respect for one of the many diverse cultures in this country.

The fact that it happens to be part of my culture is something that makes me feel very good. If CBC in Sydney is cut, what happens to that programming? Somehow I have the feeling that there are not a whole lot of Gaelic speakers floating around Jarvis Street in Toronto who would be prepared to take up the slack.

You may think I am being facetious here, but I am not. Aside from a number of members on this side of the House and even a few members on that side of the House, one of the ways that the Celtic culture has enriched Canadian public life is by producing one of the greatest political leaders in this country, who is currently showing his great political leadership and his tremendous support for the views of the Canadian people. I refer, of course, to the hon. opposition leader in the other place, Senator Allan J. MacEachen.

I am waiting for the parliamentary secretary when he gets his turn to tell me not to worry, that this is not going to happen, that Sydney is safe, that Gander is safe, that all sorts of regional stations are safe. I want to hear this and I will heave a great sigh of relief. Without these regional stations, how will the west understand the Atlantic?

The parliamentary secretary made it clear that he did not quite understand until I explained it to him. How will central Canada understand the regions? Who will speak for Canada in its diversity?

Diversity is not a dirty word. Diversity is a word that reflects our strength. It is not disunity. Two languages and many cultures are not disunity. They are not and do not have to be forces that break us up. They can be forces that bring us together and give us a magnificent cultural resources upon which to draw and with which to educate our children. I resent this deeply, that diversity should be looked upon as something that should then be compartmentalized instead of used to pull us together.

Government Orders

My life has been enriched by the CBC. It was enriched in childhood with programs like *Uncle Chichimus*—

An hon. member: *Chez Helene.*

Ms. Clancy: I am going to get to her, but not for a bit yet.

Mr. Edwards: *Just Mary Stories.*

Ms. Clancy: *Just Mary Stories*, absolutely. *Maggie Muggins and Farmer McGarrity*. Did you watch it too? *Hidden Pages*, with Beth Philanders, that introduced Canadian children to the great classics in English literature. I understand there were comparable programs in Radio-Canada to introduce children to classics in French literature.

On radio, even before the advent of television—I hate to admit that I can remember this, but I can—there was a program *Cuckoo Clock House* where children again were read to by wonderful actors who made the stories and the richness of our cultural past come alive to us. We hear about Susanna Moodie and we heard about Katherine Partrayal, women who helped build Canada. We heard about the great Entendent in Quebec. We heard about Jeanne Mance on these programs. We heard about Canadian history and that was a force for Canadian unity. I remembered when I was lucky enough to make my first visit to Quebec City in university. I remembered the stories that I had heard on CBC radio about the early days of Quebec being told to me as an anglophone child in one of the other regions of the country, and that made me know that Quebec was a very special part of my country too.

CBC enriched my life because as a small child home from school through snowstorms or through illnesses, I developed my lifelong devotion to news programs, listening in the early 1950s to a great big console radio and hearing the horrific reports from the wars in Korea and Indochina. This gave me and a lot of other people of my generation a life-long commitment to the cause of peace. That came from the CBC as well.