

*Government Orders**[English]*

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James):** Mr. Speaker, please remind me when I have two minutes left so I can give it to my hon. colleague from Halifax.

I would like to make an observation before I make comments with respect to this cluster of motions. Finally, we have heard from a Conservative backbencher.

We have before us now one of the most important bills, C-40, to come before Parliament in this session. I was beginning to wonder where the Tories had gone. Have they vanished? Have they left this planet altogether? Are we to believe that the Tories do not care about this bill? Are we to believe that they do not care about national unity and taking the national unity mandate away from the CBC? Are we to believe that they do not care about balkanizing the CRTC? Are we to believe that the Conservative Party and the backbenchers are not concerned about splitting the CBC board in two? Have these backbenchers become such lap dogs for the Prime Minister that they will not get off their hind ends and speak to this bill?

• (1250)

**An hon. member:** Talk about the bill.

**Mr. Harvard:** Mr. Speaker, please tell the man to just cool it a little. It really concerns me that these people are not taking part in this debate because I know that they are not all happy with this bill. I can tell you that the hon. parliamentary secretary is not a happy camper these days. He is glum, he is gloomy, because he knows that the government is trying to ram this bill, which is flawed to its core, through the House. Some of the people on that side of the House have a terrible case of political indigestion, but nevertheless, it is indigestion.

I want to make that observation because I think it is highly relevant and germane. I want the Canadian people to understand that they are over there silent and sitting on their hands doing absolutely nothing. I can assure the House that in their private offices, they are complaining and grumbling.

We have to be concerned that particular CBC services such as the northern service, the parliamentary service, the international service and the all-news channel, are not recognized services within Bill C-40. These are absolutely vital services, not only of the CBC but for national unity. These are absolute vital services for national unity.

We have already heard words of support for the all-news channel of the CBC. It has done a tremendous service and I hope that it will grow. One of my concerns is that if these services are not given what you might call statute protection in the bill, then with a government that has no faith in the public sector, public utilities or public ownership, that some day—and this might be a little bit of hyperbole—we may wake up and find that all these magnificent services have vanished or have been reduced to such a level, so crippled that they are not worth anything.

My hon. friend from Port Moody—Coquitlam mentioned how the CBC has been diminished by this government. It is absolutely true. I think it is extremely important that these services be ongoing and given legislative protection because they need funding, more funding than they have now. I think all Canadians who support the CBC—and most Canadians do—would feel much more comfortable if those important services were written into Bill C-40.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my time over to my esteemed colleague.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Please start. It is All Saints Day. Let us have a little calm in this Chamber.

**Ms. Clancy:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague from Winnipeg—St. James for giving me the opportunity to make a few comments on these particular amendments.

*[Translation]*

Twenty-three years ago today, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Judy Lamarsh opened the debate on the broadcasting legislation.