

Ms. Copps: The only arm's length you know is amputation.

Mr. St. Germain: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East alludes to the fact that whatever happened in the past she is not responsible for. The people you associate with—

Ms. Copps: I am proud to be a Liberal.

Mr. St. Germain: The people you associate with and organize with is what you are judged by. The history of the Liberal Party in this country has totally devastated the economy and that is why this debate is taking place today.

Mr. Gauthier: Tell Frank Miller that.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order.

Mr. St. Germain: Obviously we have hit a sensitive spot. They know how badly they have destroyed the arts and the economy which has supported the arts to a degree and which we are prepared to continue to support in a reasonable—

• (1730)

Ms. Copps: He can't make a statement.

Mr. St. Germain: I can make a statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order. May I remind the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) that in this very specific case, while she made her speech, no one from either side of the House—

Ms. Copps: He's not asking a question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): No, nobody interrupted the Hon. Member.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mind your own business!

Mr. Rossi: Those are partisan remarks, you have no right to say that.

[English]

Mr. Towers: If you can't have respect for yourself, have some respect for the Speaker.

Mr. Rossi: Yes, that's very partisan what he is doing.

An Hon. Member: He's the Speaker.

Mr. Rossi: Never mind, he's not allowed to be partisan.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order. Hopefully it is in everyone's interest that one way or the other, the period allowed for questions and comments is now over. We shall resume debate.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to support the opposition motion. I would like to touch on two areas. First, I would like to deal with the need for cultural services in the regions of our

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country, and, second, I would like to deal with the delivery of those services by radio.

Since September 5, we in this House have heard much about the deficit. We do have a deficit; we have a cultural deficit. That deficit is very predominant in areas like northwestern Ontario, the far North and all of the northern parts of our provinces where there are small population groups that do not have the wherewithal to support the kind of things that people in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver take for granted. My home community of Thunder Bay is sometimes referred to as the "Hogtown of Northwestern Ontario" in relation to how Toronto is seen by others. Thunder Bay is ripe with culture. There is the Thunder Bay Symphony; Magnus Theatre; Kam Theatre; Cambrian Players, an amateur theatre group; the Lakehead Choral Group which I will be seeing tomorrow night; the Vesnyanka Dancers, a local Ukrainian group; and the Lakehead Mandolin Orchestra.

We in Thunder Bay have a lot of the same opportunities as larger cities but the problem that exists in northwestern Ontario, as can be attested to by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Parry), is that the small communities that are 60 miles, 120 miles or 240 miles away from Thunder Bay or Winnipeg do not have that kind of access to the arts. They do not have the opportunity to see a symphony play. They do not have the opportunity to see a dramatic play or a musical unless they travel great distances and stay overnight in communities like Thunder Bay or Winnipeg.

Instead of cutting back on support for the arts and culture, we should, on the one hand, sustain what we have so that the existing groups and services remain available, and, on the other, we should provide the funding that will do some out-reaching. We need funding to take the Thunder Bay Symphony across northwestern Ontario. It has been able to go across northwestern Ontario for a number of years because of Ontario Government funding, but that funding has now been eliminated. Arts organizations should be brought to the schools in Atikokan, Fort Frances, Ear Falls and Red Lake. They should be brought to these places so that our children can be exposed to something other than country and western or rock music.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): What about *Friendly*?

Mr. Angus: We will come to *Friendly*. We should bring our theatre groups, our painters and our sculptors to the outlying areas. Some of the static displays should be put on the road so that they can be made available to people throughout the regions. That is what is important and that is what we should be doing in order to promote our national identity and to make sure that we do not isolate ourselves in our own little bailiwicks.

That, Mr. Speaker, brings me to my second point, which is the question of delivery of services by electronic means. In northwestern Ontario, we have been extremely fortunate for the past 10 years to have had a radio station which is an arm of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, namely, Radio