

Estimates

Mr. Speaker, I think it is pure injustice. As far as the CBC programming is concerned I watch the movies quite often in the evening and most of the time French movies are very bad. Last night it was not too bad, but on the night of the Ciné-club that is a bad scene. It is often a Czech, a Japanese, a Russian or a Chinese movie and those movies are not dubbed. They give you a condensed translation at the bottom of the screen. This is what I find really clever. The CBC cannot do any better. In the afternoon, when we are sitting in the House at 2 or 2:30 p.m. there are very good movies. In the evening we get subtitles written in white on a white background of course.

You can easily read: CBC efficiency. I do not know whether it is Marc Thibeault of someone else who dreams up those programs but I have drawn this question to the president's attention, Mr. Laurent Picard, who told me: I will look into it, I will look into it, I will look into it. He has been looking into it for over one year and things are exactly like before. Ciné-Club should be altogether eliminated from CBC programs.

I said earlier that they do not give a damn about the public; the same thing happens when we ask for something as members of Parliament. This Crown corporation is responsible before Parliament and its members but tells us to go to hell. However, when the time comes for us to study their estimates, they come around and sit in the galleries to see whether we accept them. We are here to pay. But if we request something the corporation is more important than we are. The CBC's president is more important than the minister sitting here.

The CBC's minor employees are more important than any Parliament member whether he be a liberal, a progressive conservative, a *créditiste* or an NDP member. You meet those arrogant people throughout the province and Canada. If you want to meet an arrogant one go to Vancouver and meet James Bamber. Watch him on TV! If you want to see some more of them in Montreal and Quebec, I could give you some names. In fact, the CBC is crawling with those kind of people and this is why I often protest. I am not the only one to protest against the CBC. Recently, the auditor general stated that additional votes of \$137 million will have to be granted to the CBC—a nice small corporation—because of some outstanding debts which the CBC will not be able to meet with its income. Either we shall have to grant it additional loans or subsidize it.

Quite recently the CBC's president stated, and I quote: ... Within the next 5 or 10 years, the CBC will be strangled by its financial burden.

The CBC strangled? They will simply present the bill to the President of the Treasury Board, who puts forward votes and who approved the amount of \$232,797,000. Mr. Picard is not about to lose his job, nor are the others.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General found out a few things about CBC employees; the present Progressive Conservative member for Ottawa West (Mr. Reilly), who was employed by the CBC and used to work in the United States—we know that many of them work outside Canada, in Viet Nam, almost everywhere, in Europe, in China, in Australia, to provide us with news about these countries while they have no time to go throughout Canada to give us some news of our country, to enable Canadians to have a better knowledge of one another—received from the

[Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue).]

CBC the amount of \$661.98. Well, since he had not paid his income tax on this amount, the CBC paid it for him.

U.S. authorities have claimed \$134,574 in tax on the incomes of the CBC employees. The latter said: We do not pay. Then, the President of the Treasury Board said: No sweat, we are going to pay and we paid.

Mr. Speaker, we, members of Parliament, cannot do the same; there is not one employee who can do the same here. Even lumberjacks in Kamouraska who are going to work in the United States are obliged to pay. However, the people of the CBC do not pay, and the member for Ottawa West receives \$661.98, that is the income tax paid by the CBC because he did not want to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, those are the remarks I wanted to make about the vote concerning the CBC; I said and repeat that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation must be cleaned up. We must put there Canadians with a Canadian mind, who will enable all Canadians to know our country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

[*English*]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, on rising to speak tonight I must begin by saying I am disappointed that we in the official opposition will be denied the right to register our disapproval of government waste by shutting off funds for the continued operation of Information Canada.

Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has the responsibility to alert the Canadian people to waste in government spending, and it is a dark day for parliament when we are required to sit by and watch while the public purse is plundered. The funds earmarked for Information Canada in the estimates that we are debating represent taxes paid by Canadian wage earners. These funds are the property of the Canadian people and no government has a moral right to dissipate them on frivolous pursuits. Information Canada is a frivolous pursuit, Mr. Speaker. The case against this agency is well documented, so well documented in fact that there is no way that this House could in good conscience appropriate one more cent to prolong its life.

I would like to quote from *Hansard* of February 10, 1970, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in his attempt to justify the creation of this agency. Incidentally, it is more than a little significant that Information Canada was established on April Fool's Day in 1970. It is also significant that it was created at a time when the Prime Minister was looking for a soft job in which to place the Liberal camp follower and co-chairman of the B and B Commission, Jean-Louis Gagnon. As reported at page 3405 of *Hansard* of February 10, 1970, the Prime Minister said:

This organization—