

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 24, 1993

The Senate met at 1:30 p.m., the Speaker *pro tempore* in the Chair.

Prayers.

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

GENERAL ELECTION

NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT IN CURRENT TERM

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, the clock shows 126 days today, as of March 24, of those now deathless words, political cowardice and contempt for the democratic process.

TELEFILM CANADA

PROPOSED FILM ON OCTOBER CRISIS

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, I said in this chamber recently that if I saw killers attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Mulroney, I would intervene to protect him, even at the risk of my life — not because I agreed with him, but because in a democratic society, political assassination is beyond the pale. It is a crime that negates the very essence of democracy itself. The essence of democracy is the replacement of violence by the vote as a means of settling political disputes. That is why I empathized with members of the other place who expressed indignation last week over a cartoon which could have been interpreted as depicting, and even approving of, political assassination.

Therefore I ask, if this cartoon is so offensive, what about the script for the film *Octobre*, which presents the political assassins of Pierre Laporte in 1970 as heroes, and their victim as someone sold to the mafia and who deserved to be killed? This is a film script that smears anglophones and members of the Jewish religion as tyrannical brutes and rapists; it is hate literature financed by taxpayers' money.

The government is responsible for this. In 1988, it appointed Madame Louise Beaudouin as second in command at Telefilm Canada. A talented and dynamic woman, Madame Beaudouin is also a committed separatist.

Senator Frith: Unlike her namesake in this place.

Senator Gigantès: In her three years at Telefilm, she stuffed the place with her political co-religionists, people who are still there and who see nothing wrong with a film that justifies

a political assassination in Canada's democratic society. These Tory appointees have financed the writing of a foul script for political rather than artistic reasons.

Because I believe cultural agencies should be protected as much as possible from political intrusion, I ask the government to deal with the political intrusion — the separatist political intrusion — that exists, as we speak, at the very heart of Telefilm.

The government put those separatist foxes in the Telefilm chicken coop. What will the government do about it?

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FACT-FINDING MISSION TO CALIFORNIA

REPORT OF THE ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE PRESENTED

Hon. Dan Hays, Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, presented the following report:

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The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources has the honour to present its

NINTH REPORT

Your Committee, which was authorized by the Senate on April 8, 1992 to engage the services of counsel and other personnel for the purpose of its examination of such bills, subject-matter of bills and estimates as are referred to it and to travel within and outside Canada, now presents its report entitled *Report of the Committee's fact-finding mission to California—February 8-12, 1993*.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hays
Chairman

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

On motion of Senator Hays, report placed on the Orders of the Day for consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.