

S.O. 22

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

CANCELLATION OF "OUR NATIVE LAND" PROGRAM

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, this week Canada will lose a truly excellent CBC radio program. It is a program of particular interest to those of us who are concerned about Indian and native affairs and of significance to all Canadians who care about their country and its people. The final edition of "Our Native Land" will be aired this coming Saturday.

When I first learned last January of CBC's intention to cut the program, I rose in the House to oppose it. Colleagues from all three political Parties responded positively to this representation. My office was later flooded with letters of support for "Our Native Land", and this support came from right across the country. However, CBC remained unmoved and unresponsive.

Afer 21 years of informative and entertaining reporting, this Saturday marks the final show of "Our Native Land". CBC has failed to carry out its mandate to reflect the culture of the people of Canada. It has ignored the wishes of Canadians who want to have this program continued.

I salute the program and its staff. They have served us well. They will be sorely missed.

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HOUSING

AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY—DEMAND FOR ACTION

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, all Canadians have the right to live in decent, affordable housing, and society, and Government especially, has a responsibility to make that possible. That is not happening in Canada. In many areas of our country there is a crisis situation in housing in terms of availability and affordability.

Just today a coalition of social agencies in the Halifax-Dartmouth area declared a state of emergency in housing in their region. In their statement they point out that the vacancy rate has been below 1 per cent consistently since 1981. Ordinary three-bedroom apartments in Halifax are so expensive that it would require a family income of over \$26,000 just to be able to afford the rent.

At the same time the federal Government's funding programs for co-operative and non-profit housing programs are being systematically reduced. This is a completely unacceptable situation.

The coalition demands that the leaders of Halifax-Dartmouth municipalities declare that a housing emergency exists for many people within their area of responsibility and that this declaration be acted upon by a commitment to start planning immediately for the construction of 1,000 social housing units within the shortest possible time.

My Party and I want to add our voices to these demands by demanding further that the federal Government take immedi-

ate action to address this crisis situation, not just in Halifax but right across the country, with the resources and the seriousness which a crisis warrants. Justice and social responsibility demand it.

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[Translation]

THE ARTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE IN ORLEANS, ONT.

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, on September 8 of this year, Franco-Ontarians from the Orleans area, which is in my riding, saw their dream come true: the opening of the Orleans Cultural Centre, a project of the Franco-Ontarian "participation" project.

This is another victory for Francophone volunteers in the area and also for all Franco-Ontarians to whom this outstanding example will be an inspiration. I also would like to point out that the federal Government contributed \$800,000, or more than 70 per cent of the total construction costs.

In the fall of 1984, I had the honour of turning the first sod, and I have watched the project progress until the official opening. It is a source of great pride to me that the Centre was built in my riding, and I trust it will be used to capacity by all the people of Orleans.

Congratulations to everyone and three cheers for the Orleans Cultural Centre!

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● (1410)

[English]

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

CALL FOR AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, last month an Ottawa judge, following hard on the heels of a similar decision in Sudbury, ruled that because the word "imprisonment" is not mentioned in the Young Offenders Act, juveniles, who run away from a group home or residence to which they have been committed, cannot be charged with escaping lawful custody.

Last week, noting a growing public dissatisfaction, the provincial Attorneys General meeting in Regina urged the Government to amend the Young Offenders Act.

These are but the most recent in a long list of specific problems and general concerns that have been raised by the Attorneys General, the Deputy Attorneys General, the Chiefs of Police of Canada, the public, and Members of Parliament.

I urge the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty), who is in the Chamber at the moment, to speed up his review and introduce a Bill to amend the Young Offenders Act and to correct these problems without delay.