

The minister mentioned that this kind of subvention—I am not confusing it with the Canada Council per se—is going only to theatre groups, performing arts groups that have already established their viability and ability to carry on. I understand it in this context, but in terms of cultural assistance in general, which does include the Canada Council, I think that too often we pay attention to groups already under way. I think the minister and his officials could do a better job in discovering struggling artists who are excellent and need help. This has been a problem over the years in regard to government assistance to the arts, and I would like to emphasize it again today.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the Speech from the Throne in which the government announced its intention to make many changes in council assistance to science, the humanities and the arts. I am sure this will affect the minister's department and the Canada Council. We are very concerned, whether it be artistic or cultural assistance or assistance to the humanities, that this be done in close consultation with all members of the House. Apart from that, we certainly welcome this announcement by the minister today and congratulate him on it.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, like the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey), on behalf of my party I would like to welcome the announcement of the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) today on the new capital assistance program. I know that this is going to be welcome news to the many members of the House from British Columbia who belong to my party, and who have also worked diligently on this matter.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rose: Announcements such as this are always welcome, because no one shoots Santa Claus. However, in passing, may I say that I feel that possibly the Vancouver civic administration made a little error. They asked for \$2 million and got \$1 million. I think they might have been wiser to ask for \$3 million and receive \$2 million, because all of us should be reminded that actually the total expenditure required to save this theatre in Vancouver Centre—

Mr. Basford: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rose: —has a price tag of some \$6 million, meaning that probably \$4 million must still be collected from other sources, probably civic and provincial.

As I say, I am pleased with the announcement of this new capital assistance program. However, we really do not know anything about the nature of the program, its parameters, how long it is intended to be in force, what is the total funding required over the years, and other interesting little details that I am sure we will all be anticipating.

I think it should also be said that while we appreciate assistance to the arts in the major centres of the country we should keep in mind that there are many smaller communities that desperately need facilities. Without adequate facilities it is very difficult for artistic organizations to develop anywhere except in the major centres. Artistic enterprises seldom can stand on their own. Historically they have not done so, but that does not mean they are any

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the less necessary. I agree with the minister when he says that the money has been well spent over the years and has contributed positively to our cultural identity and development.

May I say one final thing, Mr. Speaker. It is no secret, as was mentioned by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Grafftey), that we have tended to direct the largest part of our artistic funds to well-established names in Canada. As a result, I think we have tended to overlook the grass roots in the arts. I mean by that amateur community theatres, ballet and folk arts, band and orchestral groups which urgently require a national secretariat to be located in Ottawa to act as a clearing house for organizational and administrative purposes. A request for such a secretariat, tentatively called Marius Barbeau House, has been before the Secretary of State's department for nearly three years, but there has been no action taken.

I say again that I am pleased with the minister's announcement today, although it may smack a bit of ad hockery without an adequate assessment of the long-term plan. However, we welcome the announcement that the government is embarking on long-term capital assistance to artistic enterprises.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I can only agree with the initiative that the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner) has just announced. In a civilization which aims at more and more leisure, it is obviously very important that the government assume its responsibilities in order to allow all the citizens of the country to have access to the arts.

In view of the increasing interest in the arts and the higher unemployment rate, for instance, more and more people have the time to go to the theatre.

The government must democratize the arts, that is to say enable the people to participate in them.

However, there is one problem that is not solved either by building or renovating a building, and I mean the cost people often have to pay to go to the theatre.

The government is making an effort to enable the whole population to cultivate itself.

When speaking of art, one often gets the impression that its centre is found in Europe and elsewhere, and that there are few things of international artistic character in Canada.

The government must encourage artists in every way so that Canada can prove to the whole world that it has as many artistic opportunities as any other country.

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[English]

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T4 SLIPS ISSUED TO WILLIAM CAMPBELL—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. Realizing that Canada is working toward the metric