

Non-Canadian Publications

handled and dealt with by banning or controlling foreign broadcasting into this country.

I think this is a view that is not compatible with the whole history of the development of KVOS operating into the southern mainland of British Columbia. Anyone who has thoroughly and educatedly analysed the situation of KVOS has to come to the conclusion that few stations have taken such a strong and advanced good corporate citizenship attitude as they have. I submit their establishment of Canawest, a film industry operating out of Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, employing several hundreds of people in the artistry of making animated films, films projected not only across Canada in Canadian advertising but also very extensively in the international market in the making of commercials for other countries, demonstrates quite clearly the fact that that particular corporate structure has taken seriously its Canadian obligation.

At one fell swoop with Bill C-58, which is both a censorship bill and an anti-Christian bill, we—

Mr. Leggatt: Anti-Christian?

Mr. Malone: Yes, it is, because the bill also provides foreign content in public materials cannot exceed 80 per cent. Since the Bible comes into Canada in this way, it is also anti-Christian.

I will make that point in another way. If I might digress for a moment, Bill C-58 has a very marked effect on at least one specific area of the province, the Mormon communities in southern Alberta whose religious materials are all published basically outside the border. If you apply this legislation to its full extent, it discriminates in a religious way, and challenges quite strongly the notion of freedom of religion, because it excludes material more than 80 per cent of the content of which is published outside of Canada. I am afraid this bill is a threat not only to the normal kinds of reading material but religious as well.

Essentially the amendment asks for time for the Canadian government to decide how to spend foreign dollars on Canadian culture. It is almost an irrefutable kind of amendment. First of all it does not put the government in the position of taking a decision that in any long term way is going to hurt it; it simply requests that time be given for further study of the bill in the committee. That seems to me a very obvious proposal that government members ought to accept.

Secondly, it puts forward a proposal that can do nothing but lead to advantage for the Canadian people, because its acceptance would mean an increasing amount of dollars would be pumped into Canadian culture.

We are dealing, then, with the whole question of freedom of choice. Let us look at the very obvious subjective judgment being made by the government, subjective in terms of how it is tearing down the traditional stations that people on the lower mainland of British Columbia and the border areas of central Canada are accustomed to. I note this action is just as consistent as the government's claim that 80 per cent of the content of newsmagazines must not be published previously somewhere else; at the same time the government again subjectively takes the position that that does not apply to newspapers.

[Mr. Malone.]

The fact of the matter is that if you pick up any paper, the *Ottawa Citizen*, the *Ottawa Journal*, *Toronto Globe and Mail* or *Star*, or any paper anywhere in the country, you will find that paper has more than 80 per cent foreign content. Yet the government, again subjectively, without first establishing criteria, is taking the position that the bill's provisions apply to the broadcasting industry.

As the hon. member for New Westminster said, there ought to be a cross border convention on broadcasting. While it was his position that we should have the convention first and then follow through with some kind of special deal, I think it really ought to be just the reverse. The fact of the matter is that a number of these border stations have established their roots. They have become good corporate citizens, in many cases pouring large percentages of their money—not just large amounts but large percentages of their money—into the Canadian cultural system, building industries in this country and hiring Canadian people—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) rising to ask a question or on a point of order?

Mr. Leggatt: Would the hon. member permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Would the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Malone) allow a question?

Mr. Malone: Yes.

Mr. Leggatt: On the question of a cross border convention, the hon. member indicated that his position was that we should pass this amendment and then enter into negotiations. Would he respond to this question? Would we not be in a stronger position in such negotiations, instead of giving away part of our bargaining stance by passing this amendment favouring one station, to negotiate first?

Mr. Malone: No, I would still have to disagree with the hon. member for New Westminster. To do it in the order in which the hon. member suggests would simply mean a great deal of the stations presently operating would have to go out of the business of broadcasting in Canada, or cut back on their revenues from Canadian sources. That puts us in the position of taking action against those people who traditionally have been good corporate citizens working in the best interests of Canada. Then following the adoption of some convention we would reinstate them. That is kind of a long road for anyone to have to tread.

● (1540)

Perhaps the government can handle this cutting back and rejuvenation, but it is certainly not something to which we can subject the corporate structure. If we were to do such to a corporate structure it would simply take its broadcasting system out of Canada and establish it somewhere else.

The point is well taken by the hon. member for New Westminster. In countries with borders such as the one which exists between Canada and the United States it is probably true that a convention of some kind should be established considering the whole nature of broadcasting. As I have said in respect of other amendments, the way to