

S. O. 31

MULTICULTURALISM

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, one lesson that the Oka imbroglio has taught us is that all Canadians must be treated with respect. That is what the First Nations demanded and that is what all of our ethnic communities want.

In respect of this point, I call upon the federal cabinet to listen to the voices of Afro-Canadians and review the CRTC decision of August 8, awarding the last available FM licence in Toronto to country music interests rather than to Milestone Communications Limited, a black-owned and operated firm which seeks to air black music and reflect black interests.

There are 400,000 Afro-Canadians in Toronto who desire, along with thousands of other Torontonians, to hear the entire range of African musical genius, including jazz, gospel, blues, soul, reggae, rap, and classical on Canadian rather than American airwaves. However, as Commissioner Keith Spicer pointed out, the CRTC decision broadcast a message that is out of tune with the multicultural reality of our country. The cabinet must send a different signal. Afro-Canadians and other Canadians are listening.

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THE SENATE

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, with the appointed Liberal majority in the Senate intent on killing Bill C-62 many Canadians have already begun to ask, where do we go from here?

Killing the GST will not solve Canada's economic and structural problems, yet our Liberal colleagues offer no alternatives. Seemingly we can no longer expect them to do so. After all, to whom are these Liberal senators accountable? Certainly not the people of Canada. If they were, would they be taking this action, which amounts to no more than simply a partisan statement. If they were, would they not be worried about the costs and fiscal responsibility? Bill C-28, UI changes and the government restraint act are all very important bills passed by the elected House of Commons. They have been obstructed by the Liberal senators and failure of their passage would add \$8.3 billion to the federal deficit.

This political opportunism must be stopped by responsible senators in the other place.

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CANADA POST

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, Canada Post continues its dictatorial ways as the corporation strips rural Canada of its postal services.

After October 15, 1990 rural P.E.I. will no longer enjoy Saturday mail delivery. This reverses Canada Post's 1982 position which acknowledged that the island was in a unique situation.

After October 30, many rural post offices will suffer severe reductions in business hours. The Richmond post office, for example, will be closed from 11.30 to 1.30, the busiest time of the day.

The elimination of Saturday rural mail delivery will cost Canada Post Corporation almost \$200,000 per year in net revenues which is contrary to their government mandate, force newspapers to set up their own rural distribution routes, thus dramatically increasing subscription costs and generally limit mail service to rural residents of P.E.I.

The reduction of operating hours of rural post offices will reduce their revenue generating capacity, thereby ensuring that they will not be able to operate economically. This will give Canada Post an excuse to close these post offices.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the government to summon Canada Post before the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations to account for their actions.

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[Translation]

THE SENATE

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, on January 18, 1965, a certain Jean Chrétien said the Senate should be either abolished or radically reformed. Mr. Speaker, history has shown that for more than 20 years, this great Liberal democrat did not bother to abolish or reform anything whatsoever. They were far too dependent on the system, Mr. Speaker.

On June 23 this year, Jean Chrétien, by killing Meech Lake, killed the first real attempt at Senate reform.