

say: You are not promoting national unity; you are a separatist and therefore you are out.

Well, this argument went back and forth.

Senator Frith: If you are a separatist, I guess by the term you are out all right! You cannot have it both ways.

Senator Murray: Out of the CBC. Of course, the problem is who defines "separatist", and according to what criteria. This was the danger that the member of Parliament in question raised on that occasion.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Gerard Pelletier, who was then the Parliamentary Secretary to Miss LaMarsh, said this about the national unity mandate in the government bill in the House of Commons on January 26, 1968:

Personally I would be most favourable to the deletion of this paragraph. It seems superfluous. It seems to me that by including it, we are giving to certain people cause to think that there is a suggestion of propaganda, which is incorrect.

Then there weighed into the discussion Mr. Robert Stanbury, later to be a cabinet minister in the Trudeau government. I ask honourable senators to pay careful attention to his interpretation of what this mandate for national unity meant in respect of the obligation of the CBC:

In my estimation, non-government media should not be directed in the kind of editorial policy they should pursue. On the other hand, parliament many years ago established a vehicle for the expression of public policy in broadcasting. That vehicle is our public corporation, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. One of the very reasons for its existence is the development and nurturing of national unity. While we in this parliament do not want to direct the editorial opinions of the owners of other news media—

and I underline the phrase "other news media"—

—we have the right, on behalf of the owners of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, to decide a basic factor of that corporation's policy. That is why in the mandate of the national broadcasting service we give it some direction.

● (0920)

Senator Frith: I wonder if anyone in Canada cites and quotes Liberals more frequently than the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I know of no Liberal who does.

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: He cannot get anything sensible out of Conservative speeches to quote.

Senator Stewart: They are his scriptures.

Senator Gigantès: And he cannot speak for himself.

Senator Frith: Never fear anonymity if you are a Liberal because as long as Senator Murray is around, somehow, some day, somewhere, he will quote you.

Senator Murray: I regret if honourable senators are embarrassed by these quotations from their predecessors, as well they might be.

[Senator Murray.]

Senator Frith: Far from it, sir! "Amused" is the word, senator!

Senator Gigantès: To have a government like yours is embarrassment enough. Nothing else can embarrass us.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, an obligation to promote national unity was placed in the Broadcasting Act of 1968 by the government of the day. Some ministers and spokesmen for the government defended the obligation on the basis that it was necessary and desirable, and that it could not lead to censorship, interference, or editorial direction. But it is clear what others had in mind, and I put on the record the revealing statement of Mr. Stanbury, later to become a minister of the Crown.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc: Get another researcher!

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, it is clear from statements made by ministers of the Crown during the Trudeau years that it was Mr. Stanbury's interpretation they relied on.

Senator Stanbury: I hope so!

Senator Murray: They did believe that the government had the right to give editorial direction to the CBC because the CBC had a mandate for national unity in the act. It was only a couple of years later that Mr. Trudeau made his famous attack on Radio-Canada and its news, editorial and public affairs program.

Senator Stanbury: And he was right!

Senator Murray: This was at a Liberal fundraiser in Montreal on October 19, 1969. Here he is talking about a news broadcast he heard on Radio-Canada. I quote Mr. Trudeau:

Only a few days ago, David Rockefeller, the head of one of the largest financial institutions in the world, was interviewed on the CBC. They got hold of him and managed to ask him: would investors keep coming if Quebec became independent? You know, it is a disease of the mind at the CBC—and I shall deal briefly with the CBC later if I have any time left . . .

Later in the same speech he provided an allusion to the national unity mandate in the act:

I spoke earlier about that other institution, the CBC. There again, the taxpayers' money is not always used to build a strong and united Canada, and yet that is why people pay taxes to the federal government.

I must say a word about the tremendous job the new directors of the CBC have done in the last two years. I know they have to work hard every day to get from that institution objective views, a little less separatist in their outlook. I know that it is our responsibility also . . . They are working to set things right within that institution. But they have a difficult task to do and it is not sure that they will succeed. I, for one, believe they will. But if they do not, we will assume our responsibilities as a government. We will close the shop. Don't think that we won't do it. If need be, we can produce programs, and if not, we will