

am very happy to see that during the past that was one area left alone by CBC management, and so the 90 minutes of news and information are on each night. I believe it is the only station in Canada doing that. It has been doing it for about a year or a year and half.

To answer the Hon. Member's question about whether we can compete, I do not think we will ever be on an equal basis. We will be on an equal basis on certain shows, those that are very popular and comparable to some of the American-type programs. On the other hand, the CBC has a complex, and we have all heard it, that people think the CBC is "arty", or it is this or that. People do not tend to watch art all the time or want to be convinced that they are watching art. CBC does some very fine programming, but it is a matter of how one sandwiches that in between shows to get the ratings and to get the people to start watching it.

It is a very difficult situation. I always felt that the CBC in Windsor could be a showcase for the United States. There are four million viewers within the area served by CBET, and the station could very well have become a show window. I was very disappointed that the CBC chose to make cuts as heavy as it did in that area. There were 65 cuts out of about 211. It was very unfortunate that some programs were cut. I do feel, however, that the CBC has to pull up its socks and get on with the job of programming and what it is supposed to be doing. It bothers me somewhat that there are still too many management people left within the CBC and that the programming people are the ones who are getting cut.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The period for questions and comments is over.

[English]

Mr. Prud'homme: Are there ten minutes for questions?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): If there is still time, I will allow the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) a question.

Mr. Prud'homme: I do count the minutes, Mr. Speaker. I made my maiden speech 21 years ago. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member on the excellent delivery of his speech. If he can deliver a speech so easily today, I wonder what he will do if he stays here for 20 years.

Would he comment on one of the great concerns in English Canada? I am speaking of the fear of Americanization. This is a fear, as the Hon. Member knows, which francophones share much less because they have other problems of survival. Having been a witness to a thousand of the best of what the Maritimes can produce, I can assure the Hon. Member that among the coalition of the people of Nova Scotia where I was last Sunday there was immense concern about Americanization. Would the Hon. Member care to comment briefly about the danger of deregulation concerning the cultural survival, especially of English Canada?

CRTC Act

Mr. Caldwell: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Hon. Member was in the House when someone asked me a question very similar to his. I have great respect for the Hon. Member sitting across from me. I thank him for his comments. I know he is very well respected in the arts and communications community.

We do have a problem in trying to get Canadians to watch Canadian programming. It is also very difficult to compete against the Americans. We all know very well that the "King of Kensington", for example, cost \$60,000 an episode, whereas "Dallas" costs a couple of million. How does one compete against that, even if the artists are as good? You are going to fall down somewhere. You are not going to be able to produce those programs. Rather than the CBC trying to be all things to all people, let us do some things really well and sell them on the North American and international markets.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Caldwell: This is what I think we should be doing. I think it makes very little sense for each region in Canada to be doing its own variety and jazz shows and so on. Why not do one bang-up jazz show, sell it, co-sponsor it, whatever one has to do in order to have a good production, so that we can stand up and say "this was produced in Canada" and it is a darn good production".

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now over. Debate. The Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault).

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to take part today in the debate on this Bill, especially since the offices of the CBC are located right in my constituency of Saint-Jacques and many of my constituents will probably expect me to speak on this legislation today.

I wish to take this opportunity to join those who have congratulated the Hon. Member for Essex-Kent (Mr. Caldwell) on his maiden speech in this House. Listening to him, one could tell that he had a lot of experience in the field of communications, and I was not surprised to hear him say at one point that he had worked in this field for nearly 17 years.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we are sincerely happy that Bill C-20 has been introduced. Basically, it is similar to the Bill introduced by the previous Government.

The former Member for Blainville-Deux Montagnes, the Hon. Francis Fox, who still has many friends in this place, had been the first to introduce this legislation. However, upon consideration of this Bill which has now been introduced by the new Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse), we realize that it will have less impact than the previous Bill which included many sections which have been omitted in this one. Any mention of control over telecommunication, of Bell Canada, and so on, has been removed. However, I realize that