

The CBC must provide a national service that meets the needs of all Canadians. Any reduction in local programming would only further increase the number of Quebec-oriented programs.

I might add that the service we have now is already at a basic minimum. I would therefore urge the Minister responsible for Communications to do everything in his power to maintain present regional production.

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[English]

THE LATE HON. GEORGE R. PEARKES

SUGGESTED COMMEMORATION IN NAMING OF NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage the House to recognize, in a tangible way, the contribution to Canada of a most honourable gentleman, the late George R. Pearkes. General Pearkes served Canada well in the two world wars, earning the highest military decoration, the Victoria Cross. The Hon. George Pearkes was a distinguished Member of Parliament and Minister of National Defence. He later became Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

May I suggest that we memorialize this fine gentleman, recently deceased, by naming the twin towers located at 101 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, "The Major General George R. Pearkes, V.C. Building". These twin towers are at present referred to as National Defence headquarters, a misnomer, as the Defence headquarters is spread through a number of buildings in the national capital region. It would seem both opportune and appropriate to provide a more descriptive title for the towers. It would also be an opportunity to pay tribute to a distinguished Canadian soldier.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, as a result of the economic statement of the Minister of Finance, the proposed cut-backs at the CBC station in my constituency are of great concern to myself, as well as to the majority of people I represent, not only because of the reduction in service but indeed because of the loss of jobs.

CBC Cape Breton is, and always has been, a great supporter of our culture and customs and has, more than any of the other electronic media, promoted the uniqueness of our area. Locally produced programs such as "Talent Cape Breton", "Island Echoes", a program which promotes the ancient Gaelic language, and "Fresh Air", are virtually the only such programs dedicated to the promotion and preservation of our local musicians and their talents.

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Presently, Mr. Speaker, we have only one hour a day of local television programming, "Cape Breton Report". That deals with local issues such as sports, weather, and news. It is all we have left and it should not and must not be cut back, because it is the only real service for those communities. If we are to keep our identity as Canadians and Cape Bretoners in this great country, we must be permitted to keep our local CBC productions whole. I urge the Minister of Communications to reverse this decision on behalf of the people of that area.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, to continue the quarterly report on the Government's activities, the Conservatives promised to establish review boards to mediate between farmers and their creditors. No action has been taken, even though farm bankruptcies are at an all-time high. The Conservatives promised major new spending initiatives in the area of research and development, yet cut \$107.2 million from federal research grants.

The Conservatives told the Co-op Housing Foundation of Canada that they were committed to strengthening Canada's co-op housing program. The subsequent economic statement cut nearly \$10 million from the program. The Conservatives told the *Catholic Register* that "we will increase Canada's contribution to official development assistance to .7 per cent of our GNP by 1990." They eliminated this target in the economic statement.

The Conservatives specifically told the National Radio Producers' Association that "we are committed to maintaining the level of funding for cultural agencies, including the CBC". They also told La Fédération des Franco-Colombiens that they hoped to see the CBC expand its service in French for French Canadians outside Quebec. They cut funding to CBC by \$75 million.

The Conservatives told the Canadian Council for Children and Youth that they supported a House of Commons report calling for the phase-out of lead in gasoline. There was no action. They also told the Family Service Centre that their Party supported the recent amendments to the Canada Labour Code providing for unpaid parental leave following the expiration of maternity leave. They have since delayed that. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the quarterly—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.