

It is the same plan of action as developed in 1979. We had such a plan, but the CBC did not implement the basis of the plan set up six years ago.

It will include a complete review of our salary scales to guarantee the application of the principle of equal salary for work of an equal value throughout the Corporation.

And he goes on with the same nonsense about his plan of action.

[English]

This is yet another example.

What is the situation in terms of what we see on the air right now? The Corporation was required to monitor its own programming. There is monitoring from 1981 and 1982. Another study was conducted as a result of the CRTC Task Force on Sex Stereotyping in the Media and MediaWatch has also done some monitoring.

The results are well worth citing for consideration of the House. In television news, women are very seriously under-represented where 77 per cent of news readers and 79 per cent of reporters are men. In television news, 85 per cent of all interviewees are men; female experts were invisible as 91 per cent of experts were men; 70 per cent of the people in the street were men and 84 per cent were eyewitnesses. Even when interviewing ordinary citizens on the street, they cannot find any women because of the traditional view that men are important and only men constitute news or public affairs. The interviewers and the interviewees are men.

In radio news, 86 per cent of people interviewed were men; female experts were almost non-existent as 92 per cent of experts were men; 55 per cent of people in the street were men and 79 per cent of eyewitnesses were men. These are recent statistics and this situation is inexcusable. It shows that the Corporation has not mended its ways and still consists of a complacent group of very sexist men who are quite content to abide by the old club rules, despite the fact that we have a Charter of Rights and a commitment, I believe from all Parties in the House, to improve chances for women and admit women as equal partners with men in the political, economic and cultural life of this country.

The CBC has been scandalously deficient in addressing this. I could go on to comment on many other policies. For instance, it has a policy for the portrayal of women in programming. It also has policies on hiring in which there is an affirmative action program which states that in job areas where women are under-represented and two job candidates are equally qualified, the woman is given the advantage. That is nonsense because it never happens. When we follow up on a complaint that women are being discriminated against we are told that no qualified women applied. We are told that not one qualified woman applied in the 150 applications. That is hardly believable in areas where there are large numbers of well qualified women.

In fact, there is an affirmative action plan and the CBC has not shown that it is serious about applying that plan. We have legitimate reason to criticize the CBC but the question is how

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to address the problem. I do not believe that a parliamentary committee is the correct way to deal with this issue. The CBC should take this matter seriously because recommendations have been made to the task force on broadcasting about this issue and many others. The task force must be scrupulously careful to bring forward concrete measures that both the Corporation and private sector broadcasting can adopt to ensure that women are shown as the equal members of Canadian society that we are.

It is unnecessary to establish a new committee and incur the expenses for travelling across the country. The task force on broadcast policy just completed its tour of the country during the summer. I presented a brief to that task force along with other people and organizations. That task force will be presenting its recommendations and a report will go to the committee. That will provide another opportunity for input, using the means we already have at our disposal without the additional expense and energy to all of those organizations which would have to repeat what they said to that task force.

In conclusion, many of the problems facing the CBC today could be solved with more money. Additional Canadian programming, especially children's programming, drama and entertainment, require more money. It costs money in order to have Canadian content for prime time entertainment viewing.

It is obvious that it is more expensive to produce a program than to buy it from the United States. The American corporations can produce their high budget programs and sell them all over the world at a small fraction of their production costs. We are subject to this dumping, as it is called in any other sector of the economy. We cannot stop it by raising a curtain to prevent programs from coming in. We can only compete by producing our own programs, and that is expensive. However, if we care about Canadian culture we will ensure that measures are taken so that the programs are produced. That is the way to fight for the survival of our culture.

● (1750)

In concluding, I want to salute the work done by the partisans, the friends of the CBC, who are being constructive and enthusiastic critics representing the grass roots of Canada. After all, these were the people who demanded the CBC in the first place. If the CBC has grown distant from its roots, these people are speaking up now. That is welcome and we should be listening to the criticisms they and our citizens are making. These are constructive criticisms and are well within the concern that we all share, which is to have a strong Canadian culture.

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to rise to address the motion put forward by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (Mr. Desrosiers) about the establishment of a subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture for the purposes of reviewing the management of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the matter of the Corporation's programming.