

*Broadcasting Act*

It has been estimated that their net profit each year, after taxes, is 50 per cent of their investment. No other field of endeavour in this country is anywhere near as profitable.

Now, let us look at what we believe is a crisis in Canadian television. We see that Canadian films represent only 3 per cent of screen time in Canada. Only 3 per cent of film profits stay in Canada, and 3 per cent of video cassette sales are Canadian. Canadian publishers own only 30 per cent of the Canadian market, and 77 per cent of magazines sold in Canada are foreign. Eighty-five per cent of records and tapes sold in Canada are foreign.

There have been a number of very successful films produced by Canadians: *My American Cousin*, *The Kids of DeGrassi Junior High*, all with public money.

**Miss MacDonald:** There is more.

**Mr. Orlikow:** How often are they shown on television or in Canadian movie theatres?

**Miss MacDonald:** That is why we have a film distribution Bill.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Very little.

**Miss MacDonald:** Or on the CBC. But they are going to.

**Mr. Orlikow:** The Minister said that they are going to. We have heard those promises for longer than I would like to remember.

**Miss MacDonald:** It is a new policy. The NDP does not want it.

**Mr. Orlikow:** What is clear at this time is that Canada and its cultural industry need vision and aggressive policies of expansion. This is particularly true because the Mulroney trade deal will make things even more difficult for both public and private broadcasters.

Let us just look at the kind of thing which has happened recently. An example of the Government's performance and attitude is found in the continuing effort of the Minister and her colleagues to sabotage the CBC's bid for an All-News network. After all, the CRTC—supposedly an independent agency which makes decisions—is to study these kinds of questions and make decisions which will be followed. The CRTC awarded this licence for an All-News network to the CBC.

**Miss MacDonald:** As of September 1.

**Mr. Orlikow:** It obviously had a vastly superior bid. What happened? The Government intervened and demanded that CBC find a private sector partner. In effect, she and the Government scuttled the plan. What is the result? Canadians now have an All-News monopoly, and that is the American monopoly held by Ted Turner and the CNN. The Government has achieved its end, namely an All-News network run out of

Atlanta, which does not cover the Tories sell-out on trade nor the Prime Minister's scandals, et cetera. CNN does not even know what street Canada is on. I have said earlier that this Government has helped, in the way of deliberate policy, to harm the CBC.

• (1210)

Let us look at what has happened. We have had a series of vicious budget cuts which have systematically undermined the network. Let us look at what has happened to CBC funding in real dollar terms since the Tories took power. In 1984-85, the CBC got \$905 million. In 1985-86, it got only \$826 million. In 1986-87, the amount dropped to \$806 million. In 1987-88, the CBC got \$789 million, and for this coming year it will receive only \$775 million. That is a reduction, according to my rough calculations, of about 25 per cent. That is the record of the Government and how it supports public broadcasting. That just is not good enough, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister has spoken proudly of the so-called new money for the CBC that she has found to help it reach 95 per cent Canadian content level. She is giving \$15 million of new money to the CBC's French service and \$20 million to the CBC's English service. This does not even come close to making up for the cuts which the Minister and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) have made in the last four years. The President of ACTRA, Dale Goldhawk, said some time ago:

And while the CBC is expected to fulfil a wide mandate, the money to go forward just isn't there. In short, this part of the announcement doesn't exactly make my socks roll up and down.

Ian Morrison of the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting said:

The most significant test is whether the Government restores the CBC parliamentary allocation to at least the real level it was in 1984 when the Conservative Government took office. The 1988 parliamentary allocation to the CBC has been reduced in real terms by \$140 million from its level in 1984. In this new policy context, funding of \$35 million leaves CBC with a net annual shortfall of more than \$100 million. The Government has therefore failed this test.

Jamie Portman, writing in the *Vancouver Sun*, pointed out:

The Government has ignored a recent call from an all-Party Commons committee that it show its commitment to better Canadian programming by increasing its support of broadcasting with up to \$250 million fresh funding annually . . . in real dollar terms, the CBC's budget has shrunk by more than \$150 million since the Conservatives came to power.

What good was it to have a parliamentary committee headed by the then Member of this House, Mr. McGrath, who spent weeks and months proposing new rules and a new way of handling things in Canada, giving the parliamentary committees more staff, more time saying that parliamentary committees after they have done their work would be listened to, that they would play a major role in how things are done? Here we have a Government which has consistently ignored the parliamentary committee, on which a vast majority of the members are Conservatives. Yet the Government has almost completely ignored the recommendations of that committee.