

component of a cultural identity. Its importance must be reflected by specific reference to it in the legislation. The lack of reference to the protection of native languages in this legislation is of grave concern to our native peoples and the Liberal Party as they fight the erosion of their cultural heritage.

On another aspect of the bill, there is no provision to protect exclusive rights which Canadian broadcasters acquire to show programs in Canada. The difficulties arising from non-simultaneous substitution must be redressed otherwise exclusive rights mean absolutely nothing. When you combine increased pressure from U.S. broadcasters for access to Canada and the refusal by the government to limit access through legislation, it is sure to lead to rapid erosion in our home programs.

Let me just finish by talking about the need for licensing foreign networks. There is presently no requirement for foreign networks which do business in our country, and that I think is quite incredible. Foreign networks receive increased revenues and viewing audiences by being carried in Canada and at the same time they are not required to be licensed. On the surface certainly that is unfair. I think it goes beyond the surface though. The same rules which apply to Canadian broadcasters should be applied to foreign broadcasters earning revenue directly in this country.

They also contribute to the country by providing Canadian programming. I am talking about our programs. American networks receive expanded audiences and advertising revenues by being carried in Canada and as a result they should have to contribute through a licensing fee.

In closing, I want to say that the bill is important because of the industry that we are talking about. I was fortunate enough to work in the industry for more than 30 years. You get a sense, when you work inside the industry, of just how important it is to the country. That is not to suggest that people who are outside of it do not appreciate its importance, but it is a paramount industry. We as politicians, as parliamentarians, have to come to grips with this. Whatever we can do to strengthen this bill, which will ultimately lead not only to better programming and a better industry but to foster national unity to promote the Canadian identity, is well and good. In fact, I think that should be our primary motivation. So

### *Government Orders*

I look forward to this bill going to committee where perhaps we can do a lot more work to strengthen it.

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I hope to be able to keep my remarks mercifully brief this afternoon. I will be emphasizing some of the points made by my colleague, the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam and our caucus's communications and culture critic, in his excellent address to second reading of Bill C-40 on November 3. I do not expect to be repeating much.

I would like instead during the course of my remarks today to propose perhaps something of a context in which this bill can be considered by this House. To do that I would like to call reference to what I consider to be one of the most important books published in Canada, certainly since the 1960s, put out a couple of years ago. It is by a west coast author named Brian Fawcett and the book is called *Cambodia: A Book For People Who Find Television Too Slow*. It is a series of loosely-related stories, observations, essays, *pensées*, all of which take as their central consideration how it is that a society, how it is that a culture maintains its history, its collective memory, and how vital that is to the health and survival of that culture and society.

Culture can be defined in many, many ways. It can be defined as narrowly as the fashion in which we choose to sing and dance for our own amusement, to as broadly as including those aspects of education, indeed of our working lives, that allow us to express and rework over time that which we are individually. So coming up with a definition of culture is not an easy thing. But I think we can all agree that one of the crucial aspects of culture in a societal sense is that culture is the vehicle through which a separate and distinct people maintain and distil their history and, hence, maintain their memory of who they are and what they are for. It is how we continually recreate ourselves.

It is in this context, with reference to this definition of culture that I would like, if I may, to consider this bill and some of the other aspects of culture in Canada that help to context, if I may use a noun as a verb, this bill.

I think it is must be agreed that there are two conditions that must be present for culture, as I have defined it, to work for a society. The first is that that society, obviously, must have a history and a memory of that history. It must have a culture. The second is that it