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HERITAGE

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—
Communication from Minister

Question by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, November 27, 2008

THE SENATE

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[*Translation*]

HERITAGE

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION— COMMUNICATION FROM MINISTER

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. Can the government tell us its position regarding the public broadcaster, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation? Does the government support this crown corporation that makes it possible to send culture, knowledge, information and opinions all across the country?

[*English*]

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Minister of State (Seniors)): I do not understand the premise of the honourable senator's question. We have just sworn in a new Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages in the person of James Moore. There have been many stories in the newspaper about the CBC, and the CBC has been in a constant battle with the various newspaper organizations who

question the CBC. However, as far as I know, I have not seen or heard anything in the last while about the status of the CBC.

• (1415)

[*Translation*]

Senator Tardif: Will the government continue to support our public broadcaster or does it intend to privatize it?

[*English*]

Senator LeBreton: Honourable senators, that is a hypothetical question. I have seen no evidence of privatizing the CBC. The prudent thing to do would be to await any comments or any policy changes — if they are proposed at all — from the Minister of Heritage and Official Languages, Mr. Moore.

The honourable senator will know that as a result of a newspaper story on expenses in the CBC, Mr. Moore wrote to the CBC and suggested that they be more prudent in their spending. That is the only reference I have seen in the last few months to the CBC.