

October 6, 1965
(9:15 am - 10:15 am)

AGENDA AND ENGAGEMENTS. The order of business was reviewed and arrangements for the social function for 5:30 p.m. confirmed.

ACTRA. Mr. Coderre reviewed the circumstances which contributed to the discontinuance of negotiations with this union and the strike possibility by mid-October. He explained that the two main issues of dispute were (1) union security involving a check-off formula and union accreditation and (2) guarantee of work for performers. It was pointed out that the union was striving for a larger membership of writers and because of this the Corporation did not want to be placed in a position where it would lose its freedom of script selection because some writers may not belong to ACTRA. It was estimated that at present about 27% of the Canadian writers used by the Corporation are members of the union. It was explained that the strike possibility exists because ACTRA represents both authors and performers and the latter group was refusing to work if the scripts were not written by writers who had been accredited by the union.

In Dealing with these specific issues, it was generally agreed that the Corporation could not accept the union demand for accreditation because of its long range effect which would restrict freedom of choice for the Corporation. Mr. Coderre was of the opinion that if negotiations resumed, this area of dispute could be settled.

Referring to the issues of check-off and minimum fees, it was felt that the Corporation would not object to these demands but that it would be more difficult to meet the request for guarantee of work because it is difficult to determine exactly what the Corporation's future volume of Canadian productions will be or how this can be accomplished without knowing what the financial resources can accommodate. It was pointed out that if this requirement was to be met without additional funds, it would be necessary to cut certain services to provide for increased Canadian productions. Mr. Walker cautioned that even if the Corporation had the funds to increase the proportion of Canadian programming, that the physical production facilities for the English network in Toronto are presently taxed to the limit and no more could be accommodated in the existing program mix. However, the point was raised that more Canadian productions could be included in the schedule if some minor alterations were made to the program mix and some increase made in regional contributions to the network at the expense of U.S. syndicated films. This would result in loss of revenue. Mr. Walker stressed the relationship between sponsor interest in Canadian produced programs and participation in the sponsoring of U.S. syndications and the delicate balance that must be maintained to keep the revenue from dropping drastically.

The Directors agreed that every effort should be made to avoid a strike in a way that would not tie down the Corporation to specific amounts to be spent on talent. Its approach should be to confirm that additional funds will be spent to improve working opportunities for Canadian performers and writers for 1966/67.

The Directors agreed that the Corporation attempt to have negotiations resumed by indicating willingness to discuss the check-off issue and the guarantee of minimum rates to all Canadian writers. A draft statement of the Corporation's position was prepared, modified and agreed to which is attached as Appendix IV. Mr. Coderre later reported on the President of ACTRA's acceptance of the Corporation's offer and agreement to the resumption of normal negotiations.

Referring to the telegram from Mr. Comor (President of ACTRA) to Mr. Ouimet, the Directors agreed that the President should reply. It was also agreed by the Directors that they would not meet with the ACTRA President as he requested, but that in the future when the CBC Board is meeting in various locations and social functions are scheduled, that consideration be given to inviting various local union heads, as a means to furthering good public relations.

The meeting adjourned to permit a meeting of the 41st Program Committee.