

to keep commentary work in which opinion might come quite separate from the news, and I think if we had a news staff we would have to have quite different people doing the different commentaries. You would have to have one news organization trained in objective reporting and then if you have commentators they are people who have to put some interpretation and opinion into it, and I think it better that they be not on the staff.

By Mr. Fleming:

Q. Better not try putting those on together?—A. No, it is always important to keep the distinction.

By Mr. Murray:

Q. It is always interesting to have a commentary from the Press Gallery by old and experienced men who know the position here very well—news people, personalities, parliamentary news, the geography of the country—
—A. If we ever did have it at the present time I do not think we could have our own men doing news reporting here and we could never put them on as commentators.

Q. Well, their material could be placed in the mouths of commentators, the factual material which they might collect from day to day?—A. Well, we think of commentators as observers who are giving their interpretation of what has happened and naturally an interpretation would be backed by their own opinion and that is why we try to have a number of commentators to get a balanced sort of comment. We could not have C.B.C. men on our staff out gathering news and then put them on to give their comments which, after all, are only opinions.

Q. It is not necessarily gathering news but being present when the news is being made and editing the news and striking the items of national importance.—A. But surely they are two separate things. There is one trying to get out the facts, as the Canadian Press does now and supplying them to us and newspapers all over Canada, and another thing is interpreting that news, and surely those two must be kept entirely separate.

Q. I think there is an opening there for a very able reporter—not to interfere with the work of the Press Gallery but to represent the corporation.

Mr. FULTON: Well, Mr. Murray, we are always told that we have the ablest press men in Canada now already.

Mr. MURRAY: We have, and very able men too, but the corporation apparently does not employ any staff here to take care of its needs at this source so far as the national picture is concerned.

By Mr. Mutch:

Q. You distinguished, I thought rather oddly, between factual news reporting and commenting. Has the suggestion ever been made that you charge your commentators under the heading of entertainment?—A. Not quite. We hope that some of our broadcasts have an entertainment value and it sometimes varies.

By Mr. Knight:

Q. Isn't it true that these are entirely two different types of people, that a news reporter is not able to do an objective commentary or a commentator is not able to make an objective news report?—A. I would not say that the one man could not do the same job, but when we ask a person to come and speak on a program like Capital Report we expect him to give