

The WITNESS: We are given a responsibility and we take it. That was our judgment. If we are wrong and it should be produced I would be glad to do so.

Mr. FULTON: I am not questioning your judgment in that case. What I am asking for now is your comment, and I think it would be interesting to hear whether you would like to make a further explanation as to whether there should not be an independent board to which appeals from your decision can be taken because it seems this is the sort of procedure we have got to go through in order to have Parliament pass judgment.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: And if that special board advises the minister who is responsible that it is not in the public interest then the minister will not give the information to the House any more than we have it now.

Mr. FULTON: Quite so, but I think the advertiser would feel that he had had the benefit of an appeal to an independent board which was not concerned with the actual operation of the CBC.

The WITNESS: Surely that leaves a corporation such as ours in a stupid position of being responsible and told to provide a good national broadcasting service and then having some other body, whatever it is, telling it what is and what is not a good programme. If we are not capable of making pretty good judgments and defending them here and being told we are wrong then we should not be given the job.

Mr. COLDWELL: Is it not a fact that if someone has a grievance and wishes to come before this parliamentary committee facilities will be given for them to appear and present their case?

Mr. FULTON: I imagine that is so, and I quite agree if Mr. Dunton could not justify his decisions all he has just said would be true, but I am putting forward the suggestion that this is a pretty cumbersome procedure through which to go, to have to call the committee and then decide whether or not you were right in refusing the information. If we decide you were not right that puts you right on the spot; if we decide you are not right then the information has to be produced and then the case is tried. I say it is practically denying the right of appeal although you say that the corporation itself is subject to the judgment of parliament.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: Are there any more questions? I mean questions.

Mr. FULTON: A question, yes.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I did not get an answer yet to my other question and that was whether they would produce that file now.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Whether they would produce the correspondence as between the Toronto Star and the CBC since 1937.

The WITNESS: Frankly I am not in a position to give an answer on that now. I have not been through the material. There is a file of correspondence.

*By the Vice-Chairman:*

Q. Is that file with your department or with the Department of Transport as was intimated yesterday?—A. Since the CBC was set up we have material.

Q. You are having someone working on searching the file now?—A. Yes, we are.

Q. When do you expect it to be available?—A. A lot of the material is right here now. I would be glad to produce it if it is the wish of the committee, but I think the position has always been taken—and I think it is only just to the corporation—that internal communications in the corporation should not be produced. We tell you what we do and we do it.