

Finally, throughout the organization and conduct of the hearings members of the Sub-Committee have been made aware of the tremendous influence of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the collection and dissemination of news and public information destined for radio and television. The Sub-Committee experienced the power of the Corporation on the opening day of its hearings when the senior management of the Corporation, complete with legal counsel and camera crews galore, staged a media event to protest the temerity of a parliamentary committee investigating the accuracy and fairness of one of its programs. The mandate of the Sub-Committee did not extend to studying the coverage by the CBC and its employees of the controversy, or to the reaction of senior management and employees to the release of the Ombudsman's report. Nevertheless, as a publicly financed news collecting and disseminating institution, the CBC gave every indication to members of the Sub-Committee that it was out of the control of its Board of Directors. Members of the Sub-Committee feel that the time has come to evaluate the degree to which government-financed agencies dominate news and public information broadcasting, the implications of this dominance, and whether it is in the public interest.