

which calls upon the CBC to contribute to the development of national unity.

The essence of the CBC's role in the referendum debate, it seems to us, is clearly defined by the premise which underlies the very existence of the Canadian community: that it is a community based upon freedom of speech and opinion and expression. And the function of the media in such a society is to facilitate the exercise of this freedom of speech and debate by communicating to the public the information and the ideas which are the ingredients of free discussion and debate. Only if the Parliament of Canada were for some reason to decide that this freedom should be curtailed could it be otherwise. And in all that has been said about the referendum debate, no one has even hinted that this freedom should in any way be limited. The reason is plain for all to see: freedom is clearly the most fundamental value of them all; to violate it would be to shatter the case for nationhood of any kind.

The role of the CBC, then, in its news and current affairs programming, is to inform Canadians about the issues they