

May 25, 1970
(9:00 am - 12:40 pm)

POLICY - PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS

The Vice-President, Programming (Mr. Ouimet) presented the agenda report and explained that this document represented a general re-editing and separation of the provincial political broadcast guidelines which were formerly integrated in a single document including several other statements on rules governing controversial broadcasting. These new regulations on political broadcasting have been brought into line with the principles governing broadcasting of this type as defined in the 1968 Broadcasting Act and the regulations issued by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission. Mr. Ouimet emphasized that they were intended for the guidance of CBC officers, producers and others engaged in the planning, production and presentation of free-time political broadcasts between and during Federal or Provincial election campaigns.

During an article by article review of this paper, Committee members made several suggestions and raised a number of questions that they requested be referred back to Program Council for re-examination. Specifically, those articles (Page 6, subsections (e) and (f) and Page 8, subsection (e)) which dealt with the allocation of free network time to parties not represented in the House of Commons or Provincial Legislature and new political parties at the Federal and Provincial levels were ambiguous as to the difference between the two categories and the provision of time that would be allocated over and above the amount given to existing parties. Additions to the text of sections V and VII shown on page 10 were also agreed to.

Mr. Palmer raised a question with respect to paid political broadcasts and why the Corporation has developed a stance whereby it prohibits the sale of time for political broadcasting when private stations affiliated with the CBC and individual private stations are entitled to sell free time for this purpose. Following a brief discussion with respect to whether any departure from CBC network policy should be permitted at the local station level and whether local sales might negate the balance established by the offering of free network time to political parties, the Committee agreed that Program Council should take this point under advisement and prepare a statement explaining in more detail existing CBC policy as well as presenting reasons for maintaining the status quo. It was also agreed that this paper would be submitted to the Committee for review when Program Council reports back on those paragraphs mentioned above as requiring further attention.

Mrs. Lacroix moved, seconded by Mr. Archambault,

THAT the policy on Party Political Broadcasts be approved subject to further consideration by Program Council of subsections (e) and (f), Page 6 and subsection (e), Page 8 of the draft submission.

CARRIED.

The President noted that Management would be submitting to the Committee at a future meeting a revised policy paper on controversial broadcasting.

1970/71 FALL-WINTER TV SCHEDULES

Drafts of the planned television programming for the fall-winter 1970/71 season for both the English and French language services were presented to the Committee. (These are attached as Appendix I.) Each of the Vice-President, General Managers (Messrs. David and Hallman) of the respective networks reviewed the program details and pointed out various modifications and improvements that have been introduced. Of particular