

*By Mr. Fulton:*

Q. I would like to ask Mr. Dunton a couple of questions. Supposing I, as a private citizen, object to a programme or a series of programmes being broadcast over the CBC or a national network, what would be my course of action?—A. I would suggest that you would do as a great many people do, both condemning and approving—probably more when they have criticisms—they write to the CBC. Actual expressions of opinion are taken into account.

Q. To whose attention would they go?—A. Some go to the director-general of programmes, Mr. Bushnell, and I think the general manager gets some, and I get a good deal here in Ottawa, and they are all followed up.

Q. Supposing the programme continues and I am not satisfied; I would lodge an appeal and I would be heard; and suppose some other programme is more suitable?—A. I suppose you could write to the Board of Governors and ask for it to be brought before the Board of Governors. I do not know what more you can do except to protest before a parliamentary committee.

*By the Vice-Chairman:*

Q. Is it not a fact that if you listened to all the people who protest against programmes, you would be in continuous session?—A. As they come in now, the letters vary between letters praising and letters condemning.

*By Mr. Fulton:*

Q. I am sure of that. I am just trying to follow up the appeal system, and I gave you that instance to assess the opportunity which exists to protest a policy or practice of the CBC. I understand in the last analysis it would go to the Board of Governors?—A. That is right.

Q. Just to get the position clear, the Board of Governors is also the body ultimately responsible for having approved of a programme, is it not?—A. Yes, ultimately responsible.

Q. So that you have an appeal to the same body which is executively responsible for carrying on?—A. Surely it is a question of responsibility. We are given the job of being responsible for what goes on the network.

Q. I am not arguing that. I am trying to make it quite clear it is your responsibility and that is the way it works?—A. Yes, and presumably somebody can come to this committee—

Q. If Parliament is in session or if the committee has been called I agree they can, but from the process that you have outlined and the policy which you have followed in exercising responsibility—and I am not questioning that at all; I am trying to establish whether or not it is a fact—you feel free to deny certain information to parliament on the ground that you do not consider it in the interests of the CBC to disclose it?—A. I do not know whether I have made myself quite clear enough. It was the publicity we were worried about on the question of advertising programmes. We would be glad to give the information to this committee for its own consideration.

Q. Please, Mr. Dunton, I would ask you to understand I am not criticizing your decision, and I am not criticizing you for the way the policy works. I am just trying to establish to my satisfaction how the policy works. It seems to me it does result in your making decisions, saying then that the only appeal is to parliament and then saying that because we do not consider it in the public interest we will not disclose certain information to parliament, and then I put it to you is it not a fact that parliament is not in a position to judge the merits of the case which perhaps a broadcaster has asked it to investigate?

Mr. ROBINSON: I do not think that is the case. Mr. Dunton has not at any time refused to give the information to parliament or this committee. What he has said is, "Let the committee take the responsibility whether it wants that