

better job of reflecting those problems to viewers in French Canada than are the daily newspapers in French Canada?

Mr. Davidson: This, I couldn't say with certainty.

The Chairman: I think I was going to ask Mr. David. I am interested in your comment—please go ahead.

Dr. Davidson: Well, I defer to Raymond.

[Translation]

Mr. David: At the present time, we have, in our secretariat, a comparison between our news and public affairs content and that of various papers, not only French-Canadian papers like "*Le Devoir*" or "*Le Soleil*" or "*La Presse*", but also Montreal English-language papers, and we also follow "*The Globe and Mail*" and other papers. We observe that there really are deficiencies in our information. What I mean is that the French network has also contributed a good deal to the knowledge of our country, and we have taken initiatives that perhaps went unnoticed. I'm thinking of a series like "*Vivre en ce Pays*", which consisted of 26 documentaries on Canada, in which we showed the physical, social and cultural features of all the provinces of Canada, and even the Yukon.

We had two summer series that we made, "*Ballades et Chansons*", that were actually bilingual programs and were shown on the English network. These programs were made by a Montreal producer; on the same program you had folk singers and chansonniers, and we went through the whole country from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

In our "Public Affairs" programs we regularly have contributions from other places. Once again, it's only lately that we've had correspondents outside the province of Quebec. For three years now, we've had a correspondent in Vancouver, one in Winnipeg, one in Toronto and one in Moncton. Since we've had these correspondents, no Legislature opening goes unnoticed, and the correspondents immediately send us their stories about the new legislation and the different problems.

We did documentaries, for example, on the growth of Toronto last year. We've tried other things, of course, but they didn't really satisfy anyone. We tried bilingual variety programs. But they didn't really stir up any interest on the English or the French side. But I think we've shown a lot of initiative that can't, perhaps, be noticed right away, to

make the various regions of Canada known to French-Canadians. And besides, in a document that was recently appended to the brief, we see the various types of programs reflecting the rest of Canada on the French network.

[Text]

The Chairman: Mr. Davidson, do you have an attitude to programming on radio or television in third languages; that is, in the languages of the so-called "new Canadian community"?

Mr. Davidson: Yes, sir, we have first of all our official mandate to discharge, and that is to broadcast programmes in French and English, the two official languages of the country. That is the responsibility laid upon us by the Broadcasting Act itself. We must give absolute priority to that as an obligation.

We do broadcast, as you may be aware, in a good many other languages, not only in our International Service but in our Northern Service, for example. We broadcast in a good many of the native languages of the Indian and Eskimo population, and I see no reason in principle why the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in its local programming, radio particularly, should not endeavour to meet some of the requirements and concerns of the ethnic groups in our large metropolitan areas.

Having said that, it becomes a matter of priority and a matter of the means to do this, and with the present obligations, we have first to meet our minimum statutory obligations in respect to the French and English languages. It can't be expected, I don't think, that in the near future we will do too much with respect to other languages.

The Chairman: Have you studied it at all?

Mr. Davidson: We have had programmes, actually.

Mr. Hallman: Well, we have. I think during the B and B Commission, we met with people in the research section working on this. Basically, although there is nothing which prevents us from this, most of the larger settlements of other languages are in the major urban areas, where frequently the private sector provides some opportunity and some access for services of that kind. I think the President indicated, in terms of the national services, these are basically French and English.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. Fortier?