

act as an arbitrator or mediator between the CBC's top management and the Seven Days unit or hosts or the Producers' Association. It has no intention of intervening in the CBC's internal decision by passing judgment on the actions of any individual member of the CBC management or personnel, or on the content of any particular program.

10. In this, the Committee shared the view expressed in the brief presented by the Canadian Broadcasting League: "We can think of nothing that could be more ultimately destructive to the independence of the CBC. Nor can we think that Parliament would wish to get into the impossible position of being a board of arbitration for CBC management disputes, a function that it cannot perform and that it should not wish to perform".

11. The following exchange between the witness, Mr. Patrick Watson, and the vice-chairman of the Committee, illustrates a similar understanding:

"Mr. Basford: (. . .) In coming before the Committee, are you recommending to the Committee that we should interfere in the production of Seven Days by recommending the renewal of your contract?"

"Mr. Watson: I think that is a perfectly fair question and the answer is categorically no. My understanding of the role of this Committee is that it is a body which gathers information and makes recommendations. The Committee has indicated its need for more information on the Seven Days situation and what lies behind it. I think my obligation here is to provide whatever information is required and perhaps to add to that information which I think might be useful to the Committee. In no sense do I feel that I am here to place a grievance before the Committee for correction."

12. Recognizing that it was not the function of the Committee to adopt a mediating role, the Committee welcomed the good offices of the government and tabled a report on April 27, 1966, which contained the following recommendation:

"While examining witnesses, evidence was adduced of the possibility of a stoppage of CBC services. In view of this evidence, your Committee is of the opinion that the CBC Management and CBC Producers should avail themselves of the good offices of the Government offered by the Prime Minister, on April 26, in the House of Commons, to avoid the possibility of any stoppage of CBC services".

Although Mr. Stuart Keate was appointed by the Prime Minister to deal with this situation, it is to be regretted that the dispute was not resolved.

13. Your Committee fully realized, early in its hearings, that it was by no means on a new journey while exploring the Seven Days issue. On the contrary, most of the circumstances surrounding that particular incident were strikingly reminiscent of findings already made by previous enquiry groups, namely the Glassco Commission, the Fowler Committee on Broadcasting and the CBC President's Study Group as quoted in the Fowler Report. The main difference seemed to be that the Seven Days case had further exacerbated the ill feelings between top and middle management people, not to mention the producers who were threatening to go on strike. The decision made with regard to the two co-hosts of Seven Days had also brought about a most violent reaction by part of the viewing public.

14. The Committee was faced with the evidence of deep divisions within the CBC among top management, middle management (supervisors) and production people. The testimony heard from both the English and the French