

CRTC. This doesn't present any problems then does it?

Mr. Bonneau: That is exactly what we stated to the CRTC in our brief, but we emphasized nonetheless that we foresee problems in the mathematical control of this system which is going to mean that in an organization such as ours, perhaps one person or one and a half persons will be required to supervise compilation. We are confronted with regulations which entail figures, mathematical restrictions and which obviously must be supervised from day to day, particularly if we move from the regulations with at present require us to present Canadian content on a basis of three months to a Canadian regulation which would require a basis of four weeks. To do this, you have to take into account all the seasonal fluctuations, the special programmes, everything has to be turned inside out. For this we would need a whole administrative department, as we pointed out.

Mr. Fortier: That is the famous problem of calculation and paper-work, surely not an insurmountable one?

Mr. Bonneau: No, but it takes on a perhaps exaggerated importance in a small organization.

Mr. Audet: With your permission I would like to make a comment which might interest you. We were pleasantly surprised to read the brief from the CBC and of Channel 10 in Montreal and to see, on reading our own, that the same problems presented themselves and that they were set forth in the same positive spirit of cooperation. It is our intention, and we have demonstrated it, to meet the Canadian content objective. We have merely indicated that we would prefer to continue to do so by following a sort of guideline, rather than by following a rigid mathematical formula, which is perhaps going to force us to reduce certain aspects of our own programming in order to satisfy mathematical requirements. Indeed I thought I understood that the Chairman of CRTC, in his replies to certain questions, indicated that he was able to understand the problem.

Mr. Fortier: You have just mentioned the positive spirit of cooperation which you and certain of your colleagues presented to the CRTC. How do you reconcile this positive attitude of cooperation with the attitude taken by the CAB, of which you are Vice-President, and which has been described as negative by

all the commentators who have studied this problem?

Mr. Audet: You know that I agreed to appear before this Committee at the invitation of Senator Davey before being appointed Vice-President of the CAB, and that your question puts me in an embarrassing position.

[Text]

The Chairman: We do not want to embarrass you but I think it is a valid question and it is one we are interested in.

Mr. Audet: I will try to answer to the best of my ability.

The Chairman: Yes. We do not want to embarrass you.

Mr. Audet: I think it has been said here this morning that things that are sensational make news and a lot of what has been said about the negative attitude has been very unfair.

I think that if you read the briefs that have been presented by the CAB and by its member stations and read them carefully in your home without pressure of the spotlights and everything, you will see that they have expressed essentially what we have expressed today in our conversations with the Board.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortier: Even when they threatened to dispute the jurisdiction of the CRTC, Mr. Audet, on the matter of programming and Canadian content?

Mr. Audet: I don't think, Sir, that the CAB threatened...

Mr. Fortier: What was Mr. Henderson doing there?

Mr. Audet: You are a lawyer; I don't understand legal procedure, but, if you say to Senator Davey at a given moment that there is a legal procedure to fulfill and that such and such a thing must be put in the record in case one day you should want to change course, I think that Senator Davey would probably be obliged to have confidence in you and to say to himself: that is what we must do.

Mr. Fortier: In your opinion it was a measure of protection?

Mr. Audet: I think it was perhaps a prudent measure. That is how I interpreted it, I do not think it constitutes a provocation.