

said: "Would you have a second look at it?" And they said "Of course we will but don't think we will change our decision, but let's have a second look." And they confessed—they revised their decision and couldn't even find in their own minds why they had objected to it three years previously—so rapid even in Britain is the change going. And the CBC is in a very difficult position, I would like to say. For instance, censors in all the provinces all play the same game. For instance they say this film is good for Toronto but not for Renfrew, or it is good for Montreal but not St-Zénon, but the CBC can't do that. The menu is the same no matter where it is played.

Mr. Fortier: Maybe they would accept "This Hour Has Seven Days" now in 1970!

Senator Quart: Oh, yes.

The Chairman: I believe Senator Smith has the final question.

Senator Smith: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This really should have been a supplementary question because the subject was discussed by Mr. Fortier some time ago but the translation at that moment was a little slow and I couldn't interrupt. It has to do with the commercial policy of the CBC.

We have had several representations by witnesses in recent days about the unfairness in the rate structure of the CBC in charging on the same basis for time which presents a very serious problem to the private broadcaster. I am sure this is nothing new to you, but would you like to comment on that?

Mr. Pelletier: Well, surprisingly enough, it is new to me. It is the first time I have heard this complaint in such a specific way.

Senator Smith: They gave us figures.

Mr. Pelletier: For my own satisfaction I would like to look at the figures and see what it is all about. It has been the contention of many private stations over a long, long period that the CBC's overhead was not taken account of, and so on and so forth, which didn't impress me too much at the time because the CBC also has disadvantages on the market. They have to cater to parts of the population that the private stations won't even touch, but I must say that I am not aware of what the rates are right now, or what the differences are, or what the rationale of the CBC is for establishing their rates at that level. I am not competent to talk about this today.

Senator Smith: I am sure the industry would be very pleased to learn that you are going to

undertake to take a look at it yourself and perhaps it would be the subject of discussion at one of the meetings that you may have with the management of the CBC.

Mr. Pelletier: Informally.

The Chairman: Well, Mr. Minister, on behalf of the Committee I would certainly like to express our appreciation for your candor and your frankness and for answering questions in both of your capacities, that is as a former journalist and a concerned citizen, and more particularly, of course, as a Minister of the Crown. I may say very frankly that your answers have been most helpful to us in developing the kind of perspective which I think the Committee needs and is gradually acquiring.

I am sure the members of the Committee will agree with me when I say that you have been a particularly fitting and appropriate witness to close out this series of public hearings which began on the 9th of December. My own closing remarks will be very brief and very much to the point.

Senators and others might be interested to know that in the course of the hearings we have heard from 125 witnesses at 90 sessions on 43 sitting days. The Committee has received from these witnesses 110 briefs. As well as these 110 briefs from our 125 witnesses we have also received a series of written briefs from the media. These are from publishers and broadcasters who did not actually appear before the Committee. We have 32 from daily newspapers and broadcasters, 18 from weekly newspaper publishers and 24 from farm and ethnic publishers.

In the non-media area, because we have heard from many non-media people, we have written briefs from fourteen groups and associations and we received 22 individual written briefs.

Now, none of the material I have been talking about should be confused with the research briefs which the Committee has in hand or, for that matter, with the quite literally hundreds of letters they have received and are continuing to receive from individual citizens.

This is a three phase study. The first two stages, the research phase and the public hearing phase are now virtually complete. I say virtually although there are still one or two miscellaneous matters to deal with in each area—that is in the hearing area and in the research area. In the hearing area I do not anticipate any more public meetings, but I do not want to close the door—some may be necessary. Mr. Fortier, our counsel, tells me that there is even a legal phrase that suits the situation, but I have forgotten what it is.