

many (particularly younger) Canadians in the last ten years."

Do you think it is true that the younger Canadians are inclined to see these differences more clearly?

**Mr. Gray:** Well, I have a large reason for supporting a statement of that kind and because of the last moments of that CRTC hearing yesterday, I am able to give you some specific examples.

**The Chairman:** Please.

**Mr. Gray:** Through this year I have had some association with the University of Waterloo, with students there in an experimental program, and I don't think it is unfair to say that the young people that I have met there have a view of United States, in particular, which was much different than when I was in university. They are much more skeptical. Some of them are very aware of the problems and in a sense they are kind of on the verge of being Canadians, in other words, they are becoming aware and they are more interested directly in Canada than, it seems to me, we were when I was in university. I suspect that among the youngsters in Canada, there is no doubt that there is nationalism—there is no other word for it other than "nationalism" so I'll use that word, but I want it understood in a positive sense. There is a feeling about Canada which is very real, very deep and they are looking for some expression of that, looking for some way as to be that or to say that.

Now, last night there were three youngsters at the CRTC hearings—there were two unscheduled appearances—three people altogether, two and then another young lad. They were all young people and the first two of them were from Ottawa. I don't know their names but they came forward and they had all kinds of suggestions as to how they wanted to make the CBC work and to make it Canadian. The suggestion that struck me most was, that they thought it would be a very good idea to program all of the commercials in the American programs and no commercials in the Canadian programs and then we would have no problem in deciding which was which. Following that, there came another young lad and he was a much more serious than the previous boys. He came up and Mr. Juneau asked him, "how did you get here?" and this boy said, "Well, I heard about this, I was watching "W-5" and "Week End" and I

heard you talking about these things and I realized that it was a very important discussion that was going on up here. I wanted to be part of it and so I have taken two days off work and I have come up here." He then told the commission what he thought of them, which included the fact that he didn't think they were getting through to the young people; but he did express a very clear concern, which I myself have, being among young people and being among my own children. The young people in Canada today are very concerned about their own country and I think it behoves some of us in middle-age to get off our back-sides and recognize that.

**The Chairman:** The reason I put the question—I don't, even for a second, question the concern but I think the skepticism is not with the United States—it is with the Establishment and I think the life style, the protests and the music are all American imported.

**Mr. Gray:** Well, there is no question about the life style, but that's what these boys were saying yesterday. They were in fact—if I understand this country and they want to be words into their mouths—but if I understand them properly, they really want—it is a terrible phrase, but I have to say it—they want to do their own thing and I think that is what they want to do. In one sense they want to understand this country and they want to be part of it. If I understand some of the things that are going on in French Canada at all, that is one of the things that the French Canadians have said to us. I came back to Canada after some years away. We were in England for 8 or 9 years and that is a very good place for a writer. You know, you can make a good living and people pay attention and treat you with respect. But one of the reasons I came home is that my older children—they insisted we come. That is one of the reasons—that is not the only reason but they wanted to come back because they said that is a very exciting country and it was 1967 and they made up their minds.

**The Chairman:** Is there a happier climate here for writers now than when you went to Britain?

**Mr. Gray:** Not really.

**The Chairman:** It hasn't changed?

**Mr. Gray:** Not nearly enough.

**The Chairman:** People still look at you strangely!