

as we can see. The committee knows the buildings in Toronto were transformed from a former ladies' college during the war. They are not fireproof, they are overcrowded, and the time is coming when we will have to have proper facilities there. I will not go farther, Mr. Chairman, into things which involve finance, as I believe you wish to bring those questions up later.

On the international service, in which the committee knows we act as agent for the government of Canada and in close consultation on policy matters with the Department of External Affairs, I think the committee will find quite a good summary of its activities in the annual report.

The budget this year was very close to that of last year in spite of increased costs, and it is operated on a very tight financial basis. I do hope the committee will take some time to look into the activities of the service to see what it is saying to other countries in the world. I think it is rather too bad that people in Canada do not often hear the broadcasts that are going out, or they cannot understand them since they are in different languages. As the committee knows, the service is being operated to play a really active role in the present international world in which we are living. It is trying to get material behind the iron curtain, to our friends in other countries and to people in other countries who may still be not quite sure which side they are on, the democratic side or the other side, and to help strengthen the bonds of understanding and friendship with other friendly countries.

The service for some years now has really consisted in each case of almost three things. There will be some variations to different countries according to the country and its position, but in general the service in each language consists of three main elements, one, news—we and External Affairs have an important function to try to get into the countries behind the iron curtain, to let in some light and truth. The second element is interpretation, interpretation from a Canadian point of view of what is going on in the world of international affairs, of things that are happening here, and events from the democratic point of view. The third element is a picture of Canadian life. It is often suggested that perhaps the best way to interest people beyond the iron curtain, or near it, in democracy, is not simply to talk about how good democracy is but to picture it to them in action, to show them how Canadians live and work and how we run our affairs. I think the committee will be interested in looking at some of the scripts. Most of them are available in English, and perhaps, too, you would like looking at some of the correspondence we get in from other countries. Some of it is quite amazing. The volume of mail we get is very large in relation to that which the British and American systems get and compared to the relative amounts of money that are spent on the service.

Mr. STICK: Do you mean you are getting responses from behind the iron curtain?

The WITNESS: We are getting some. We used to get a great deal from Czechoslovakia before the coup in 1948. We still get letters from people who even take the trouble to have letters smuggled out of their country. I do not think that we have any fan mail from Russia yet. I do not think there is much chance. We started to broadcast there in February and I think it will be going a long way to expect letters to come from that country, but we do know that our signal is getting in to Russia in spite of heavy jamming. Our service is worked out in connection with the British and American people and it is quite an effort to get through the Russian jamming service, but we know that at times it does and at times it is certainly perfectly audible in parts of Russia. A great effort is being made by the Russians to jam all outside broadcasts in Russian made for that country.