affairs programs in overwhelming numbers. CTV attracts its share but CBC often shines. Its "This Hour Has Seven Days," "the fifth estate" and "The Journal," for example, have won international acclaim.

Ratings for the current prime-time hour "The National," news, followed by "The Journal," analysis and comment, have exceeded expectations. They regularly attract audiences of 1.9 million and 1.6 million respectively. Documentaries from "The Journal," which varies satellite and studio interviews with full-length documentary features and analysis, are shown frequently in the United States on PBS's "MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour."

## **Awards**

CBC/Radio-Canada drama, documentary and variety programs have won three Academy Awards in a row, six international Emmys in eight years and two Golden Rose of Montreux awards. The Oscar winners were "Boys and Girls," which won for live action short this year; "Just Another Missing Kid" (from "the fifth estate" series), which won for documentary feature in 1983; and "Crac," which won as best animated short in 1982. International Emmys were awarded for "Henry Ford's America" in 1977; "Four Women," 1978; "Rich Little's Christmas Carol," 1979 (which also won a Golden Rose of Montreux); "Fighting Back" and "L'oiseau de feu," 1980. "Fraggle Rock," a children's program



produced by CBC with Henson Associates, creator of the muppets, also won an international Emmy in 1983. "Dream Weaver," an ice show with Toller Cranston, won a Golden Rose of Montreux in 1980.



## Critics

CBC has never been without critics and they have often been members of Parliament.

Vulgarity – or what was perceived as vulgarity or something worse – has stirred a number of MPs. Indeed, there were complaints in the seventies that CBC attacked the "very fabric of our Western way of life."

"The thing about Eve," one Member thundered, "was that she was faced with the same subtle temptation which is now being offered to the young people of this country from many sources, and the CBC is assisting in presenting this temptation through the medium of television."

Parliament and out, and over the years they have prevailed, as on one occasion

when the Cabinet Minister responsible for the Corporation interrupted one angry colleague who had railed at length about the burden on the taxpayers.

"If I cannot do anything else to bring the Honourable Member to the point, I have taken the precaution of putting in this envelope the sum of \$5.48, which is the per capita cost of CBC radio and television for every man, woman and child in Canada. If the Honourable Member will undertake neither to listen to nor to watch CBC radio or television for a year from this date, and to shut up about it, I will be glad to send him the money."

The defenders have been as determined as the attackers, and, in response to both, CBC has maintained a high level of independence.

## Seeing Things

"Seeing Things," which has been called "the best series in the history of Canadian television," is also the first to be widely sold abroad. It is now being shown in England, Australia and on PBS in the United States.

The show, produced, and written by Louis Del Grande, who also stars in it, is a kind of mystic mystery, centred on the adventures of a plump, harried Toronto newspaperman who has visions at the scenes of crimes which lead in time to solutions.

The series has drawn an average of 1.1 million viewers, 14 per cent of the Canadian audience.



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