

**The Chairman:** Was it on this morning's programme.

**Senator Quart:** I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Was this on this morning's programme?

**Senator Quart:** Yes.

**Senator Smith:** Was it obscene?

**Senator Quart:** Was it obscene?

**Senator Smith:** Yes, was this remark obscene?

**Senator Quart:** I don't think so. I don't know what it was about because I didn't have time to listen.

**Senator Prowse:** Yesterday morning he played a record which I think surprised him before it was finished.

**Senator Quart:** However, what do you do with the letters that you receive on your desk?

**Senator Prowse:** Don't tell her!

**Senator Quart:** I mean the complaint letters and not the love letters!

**Mr. Pelletier:** It means that you have never written one to me

**Senator Quart:** No, I have never written to you.

**Mr. Pelletier:** That is right, because you would then know what I do with them. I answer the complainant and I say, "You realize that the responsibility of the Minister is not one of censorship, or that he has no part in the programming. He is just a go-between between the Parliament and the CBC and I am forwarding your remarks to the Corporation and I would ask them to make a report to me and to contact you directly as well." I receive a number of those letters and I get the report of the CBC and the people get what the CBC has to tell them as well.

Now, the CBC is a huge organization and I don't know with what dispatch they can answer these things, but as far as I know they answer these things fairly quickly. But the responsibility of the Minister is not engaged here. If, for instance, there were some monitoring to be done—let's examine these areas about something illegal taking place on a CBC station or a private station—it would be for the

CRTC to monitor. All I can do is sympathize with the persons who write to me and hand it over to the CBC for their answer.

You would note in the House of Commons that I never take the CBC answers as mine. I always say the CBC gives me the following answer, and then I proceed to read what they give to me. I read it before to make sure that they don't make me say anything that would obviously be false, but really, my predecessor described herself before the Broadcasting Committee that I was chairing at the time, as a conduit pipe between Parliament and the CBC and nothing else. I think it is an apt description because all the Minister can do, of course, is have regular meetings with the CBC officials and talk about their problems with them so that he can understand what he is talking about when he answers Parliament, but he hasn't got any power to give any directive to them.

**Senator Quart:** Well, I am sure you haven't received nearly the number of letters that Senator Lamontagne did at the time because things seemingly have quietened down. People have accepted permissiveness, I think, a little more and just pray for the best. But at the same time—this is a very unfair question and since the Mass Media Committee is just about over I won't be running the risk of being told to get off the Committee. Supposing now you were talking with well, let's say Mr. George Davidson and your wife probably had seen a programme that was thoroughly objectionable at 7.30 in the evening, or something of this kind. Would you whisper in his ear a little bit and say "Well, don't you think you could do something about this—and put it on at 11.00 p.m. or after the news, or something, so that the adult listener might enjoy it"?

**Senator Prowse:** The adult listener has gone to bed by that time!

**Senator Quart:** I would take that back. I am sure you wouldn't.

**The Chairman:** Mr. Minister, do you have any comment on that?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Well, the only comment I have is that of course I work with these men and I exchange impressions with them and they don't take objections to it. I would like to just interject here that when the BBC people visited us, they told us of an incident which is, I think, very relevant. The authorities of the BBC had ruled out a programme so the film was shelved—it was just put on a shelf. Three years later the producer of this programme—only three years—went to the authority and