

It is, I think, a somewhat new departure. It is, of course, subject to the law of diminishing returns and can be a strain on our bilateral relations with other countries involved who may not share our own view of what can legitimately be put in the public domain. Nevertheless, it has served a useful purpose during the formative period of the Commission's life and will no doubt continue to be of use for the immediate future. But it will not transform the sow's ear into an elegant silk purse.

There have been times, I confess, when I have been slightly tempted to envy my colleagues in other countries who can control the press and ensure that only the news they think fit to print is, in fact, printed. I also have occasionally felt a twinge of admiration for those foreign ministers who seem to be able to manage the news by calculated leaks or by favouring those newsmen who can be counted on to publish sympathetic stories about the activities of their respective foreign offices.

But, I hasten to add, I am not complaining nor do I intend to try to emulate the.

In pursuing an open-mouth policy on foreign policy, I have come to realize more than ever before, however, that my voice carries only as far as the media decides to carry it. I may not be willing or even if I choose might not be able to manage the news; the media does in the very nature of things manage the news. That is your job. "All the news that's fit to print" as a rule of press conduct speaks for itself.

Anyone who reads Canadian newspapers and watches or listens to Canadian television and radio will agree with me that the media has given widespread coverage to recent developments in Canadian foreign policy. My friend and yours, Gratton O'Leary, complained recently in the Senate which he adorns (even if he is a Tory) that every time he turned on the TV there was Mitchell Sharp.

So I have no complaint on that score. Indeed, I have reason to be grateful to the media generally. Nevertheless, in concluding these remarks I have a suggestion to make relating to the foreign news carried by the Canadian Press.

It is the Canadian Press that brings to its subscribers the only distinctive Canadian viewpoint that is broadly available to Canadians on what is going on in the outside world. A few of our larger dailies can afford to maintain a few correspondents outside of Canada, but the vast majority of Canadians depend upon the Canadian Press. There are other newsgathering agencies, and indeed the Canadian Press cooperates with some of them, and in terms of factual information their product is first rate and they provide us with a large variety of sources of information. Besides, the fact that they are not Canadian may not matter too much. It is part of being Canadian to be equipped with a built-in filter that enables us to detect and identify news reports that are clearly not aimed at a Canadian audience.