

APPENDIX I

May 27, 1966

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
RE THE KEATE REPORT

The Board of Directors has studied the report of Mr. Stuart Keate with reference to the situation which arose several weeks ago between the Toronto Television Producers Association and the Corporation.

The Directors wish to express their appreciation to Mr. Keate for his efforts in the interests of national broadcasting, a particularly difficult task in the light of the brief span of time at his disposal.

Mr. Keate's report asked the Board to re-examine the basic questions of 'due process' and 'cogent reasons', particularly as they apply to Messrs. Watson and LaPierre and to issue an amplifying statement thereon. The Board considered both these questions carefully at its Halifax meeting, though only the former was referred to in its April 23 statement - and that indirectly. These matters were again reviewed intensively at the present meeting.

The "due process" referred to is the process under which changes in performers and artists on a program should take place only after consultation with the producer concerned. This was the substance of an undertaking given verbally to the Toronto Producers' Association last year. In the present case involving Messrs. Watson and LaPierre this process was not followed. The Board was aware of this when it made its statement at Halifax and the reference in that statement to a "serious breakdown in formal communications" reflects this awareness.

This mistake by Management was acknowledged before the Parliamentary Committee (by the President, May 24) and Mr. Keate states that it was also acknowledged to him. The Board was, and is, seriously concerned about this failure of "due process". This is why, before reaching its final decision, the Board invited Messrs. Walker, Haggan and Leiterman to present their views at the Halifax meeting. For the same reason, the Board directed that "steps be taken, at whatever levels necessary, to ensure effective communication between Management and producers."

A first step has already been taken and is referred to in Mr. Keate's statement that "agreement was reached on a crucial principle which should improve future relationships, and which reads:

"The Corporation expresses its willingness to assure the Producers that no change in artists or performers will be made without full consultation with the Executive Producer and the Producer concerned. The Corporation re-affirms that the implementation of such decisions will be executed by the Supervisor concerned.

Any issue arising out of a departure from the above procedure will be subject to appeal. This appeal would be carried out by a representative of the Producers' Association and of CBC management. In the event of a failure of these parties to agree, the issue would be referred to another level within the Corporation satisfactory to both parties.

The Corporation also re-affirms its determination to consult with Producers on changes in program content, with procedures to be confirmed through further discussions between the Producers' Association and the Corporation."