

strict rules about the news. There are supervisors who watch to see that they are carried out and there is a pretty careful system of checking. Beyond that, you have to consider charges or complaints that it is being slanted but what else can you do?

Q. Have you, for example, a rule that will say that more publicity should be given to one party than to the other, or something like that?—A. No. That depends on news value. There are some rules regarding handling of parliamentary news, for instance, in which we roughly say that on statements from parliament, if there is one direct statement made on one side care should be taken to get the answer even if it is at a different time and the news value is not as great as the first item; but in general there are no rules saying the liberals should have so many lines and the conservatives so many lines.

Mr. MUTCH: In other words, you follow the rule that if someone says something newsworthy you use it.

Mr. FULTON: After all, you have a majority on every committee.

Mr. MUTCH: I have been very well treated, but I do not think it is a coincidence that on five nights in a row the news broadcasts mentioned Mr. So-and-So, naming the same man, said something—I am going back nearly two years now—I have no complaints against it, as I am one of these people who believe that it is not too difficult to get in the headlines if you say something sensational whether it is responsible or not.

The WITNESS: I would like to say we notice something similar in the news that goes on our own network. It is interesting to know that attacks on the C.B.C. get more publicity than defences of the C.B.C.

By Mr. GAUTHIER (Portneuf): Q. I will give you a concrete case. Suppose you are in the C.B.C. radio station in Quebec, CBV, not a commentator but an editor.—A. We have no news room at Quebec. It is supplied from Montreal.

Q. Suppose I call you and I give you my name as an accredited agent of this particular special political party and I give you one or two items of news on behalf of my party, would you take that news and put it on the air?—A. No. The men on duty will say that that sounds very interesting, call the Canadian Press and tell them about it and if it reaches us through them, it will be used.

Q. Wrong number!

By Mr. HANSELL: Q. Mr. Chairman, to boil it down, would not the accusation of slanting the news be accentuated if the corporation had their own reporters in parliament?—A. I think we would have a harder time proving that it was not.

Q. Now, you mention you had had suggestions that the news had been slanted towards the Liberals, the Conservatives, and the C.C.F. My question is: Have you ever had any suggestions that it was slanted towards the Social Crediters?

Mr. McWILLIAM: There is no news value there!

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. HANSELL: Well, I hope not, Mr. Dunton. Never mind answering. I hope not.

Mr. MURRAY: I might say that the Social Crediters have had more place in the news in the last year than in any other party in Canada.

By Mr. HANSELL: Q. That may be because it merits it. May I mention this one point: I think the press, as a whole, do a pretty good job of giving the news to the country. Now, then, quite naturally, if the overall press should blow up, we will say, or give more publicity to one certain item than others, is it not likely that that might be of more or less importance and, as a result, when the editors of the newscasts edit the news they will also give more prominence