

With respect to Council's consideration and approval of new network rates, Mr. Ouimet advised that for the French network this represents a 2.01% increase and 4.43% for the English network over existing commercial rates. The effect of this increase will mean the cost of advertising on CBC facilities will be raised by 4% overall. It is not considered that this will cause any adverse reaction. The President said the Corporation sent to the Income and Prices Commission a letter outlining our intention to adjust advertising rates in accordance with the 30-day notice period established by them. No word has been received and the rate cards have been printed and will go into effect April 1st. For the English network alone, this revision will mean an increase in revenue of about \$1,400,000.

In connection with Council's review of future relations with the new federal body "Information Canada" and the provincial "L'Office d'information du Québec," the President said these operations could in time present real problems for the Corporation because Information Canada will produce their own program packages which they will regard as being factual information and of interest to the public. The Corporation and private broadcasters will be expected to feature this information nationally and will be expected to find the necessary time periods in the schedule.

The Corporation is already approaching very cautiously a proposition for coverage of parliamentary proceedings. The Corporation will have an opportunity to meet with the House Committee on this question at which time our views and reservations can be expressed.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH NETWORK REPORTS

Mr. Hallman and Mr. Blais reviewed their respective reports on program activities of the English and French radio and television networks for the months of February and March 1970. In addition, Mr. Hallman answered questions about the Corporation's coverage at both the national and regional levels of various sporting events included in its CIAU (Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union) rights agreement concluded two years ago.

In reply to an observation by Mr. Palmer, the Vice-President, Regional Broadcasting (Mr. Jennings) said he would look into the question of the discontinuance of CBC radio program listings in one of the local Calgary newspapers to determine whether this was a direct result of the emergence of the new CBC "Select" publication. On the same subject, the Chairman presented a copy of the CBC BC region local publication entitled "CBC Radio and Television Program Schedules" which was being published at a per issue cost of \$75. He had been informed that about 400 copies of these were being printed and distributed to schools, libraries, etc. The President noted that Management was totally unaware of this operation and felt that if each region were to embark on similar practices, it could result in a re-occurrence of the same kind of situation that existed before the Board decided to discontinue the CBC Times publications in view of the large amount of material available in-home through weekly TV program information booklets. Mr. Jennings said he would look into this matter.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Blais the exposure that was given to Mr. Charles Gagnon, a leader of the Front du Libération Québécois who had also just been released from prison having served 3½ years for criminal activities associated with the FLQ, on the French network's news and major public affairs program "Format 60". Public reaction that followed severely criticized the Corporation for making its facilities available to a person of this kind who appears to have no other philosophy in life other than to overthrow the established order by force and contribute to the disunity of the country. Some committee members felt that it is questionable whether the CBC news coverage given warranted this exposure but agreed that a misjudgment occurred with respect to devoting 20 minutes of "Format 60" to interviewing Mr. Gagnon. The Committee recognized that fewer instances of this kind have occurred because of the measures implemented by Management to control this type of situation.