

Now, a brief outline of CBC policy respecting the discussion of public problems and issues and the position generally in the related fields of party political, and non-party controversial broadcasting.

On the first point, the Broadcasting Act, as you know, requires the Corporation to prescribe regulations for all broadcasting, both on privately-owned and CBC stations. No censorship is imposed, restrictions being confined to those specifically set out in the regulations. The policy of the Corporation is to encourage the fair presentation of controversial questions, which indeed is regarded as part of the educational function. To this end there are organized round tables, talks, discussions, debates, commentaries and forums, distributed through CBC stations and networks. Moreover, facilities have been provided on a sustaining basis for organizations such as the Canadian Association of Adult Education and the Workers' Educational Association. Individual privately-owned stations are encouraged to discharge similar public service on a local basis.

With regard to party political broadcasting during elections, new arrangements under consideration will aim to have issues and policies placed more adequately before the whole electorate. Individual privately-owned and CBC stations will remain commercially obtainable to rival parties and candidates, subject to the relevant provisions of The Canadian Broadcasting Act and the regulations issued thereunder.

With respect to party political broadcasting between elections, any legal political party may purchase time either on networks or individual stations. Non-party statements of political leaders of sufficient general interest are carried by the Corporation on a sustaining basis.

Rulings recently approved by the Board of Governors regarding the sponsorship of non-party controversial broadcasts are as follows:

"(1) No individual may purchase any network to broadcast his own opinions;

(2) No profit-making corporation may purchase any network to broadcast opinions;

(3) Properly constituted societies may purchase network time subject to the following conditions: (a) that the society accepts responsibility for the broadcast, indemnifying the CBC against the possible consequences of libel or slander; (b) that each broadcast is prefaced and concluded by an appropriate announcement making clear the nature and auspices of the broadcast and indicating that equivalent facilities are available to opposing views on the same basis; (c) that there is no interference with normal CBC program arrangements; (d) that the broadcast is of sufficient popular appeal and interest to justify its inclusion; (e) that the broadcast is within the wording and spirit of our regulations and not in violation of any law."

These rulings, which apply also to individual CBC stations, but not to individual privately-owned stations, were the subject of the most careful consideration. The admission of the right of an individual to buy network time to propound views would entail, for example, the approval of (a) the representative of a profit-making corporation influencing public policy in favour of his corporation; (b) a profit-making corporation using opinions as a direct or indirect sales medium; and (c) an individual sponsoring his own opinions by virtue of the advantage of wealth.

Nothing in the above is of course intended to suggest that the ordinary commercial facilities, network or local, are not available to the Globe and Mail as to any other reputable company.

I hope you will excuse the length of this letter. I felt that you would understand the reasons for the decision I was obliged to take if I were to set out the general background.

I still hope that you will feel inclined to consider my suggestion that you participate in occasional programs, forums or otherwise, arranged by us. We are most anxious to make available to our listeners the views of Canadians with a real contribution to make to the solution of our many national problems.

Yours sincerely,

Gladstone Murray,
General Manager.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: I would merely suggest that the honourable leader of the Government convey to the Prime Minister that the same principle might well be applied to the Canadian National Railways Board.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not quite get my right honourable friend's point. Will he kindly repeat his suggestion?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I suggest that the same lofty sense of independence should be recognized in regard to the Canadian National Railways Board as well as the Broadcasting Corporation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It is easy to make that promise to my right honourable friend so far as I am concerned.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved:

That all the senators present during the session be appointed a committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved:

That pursuant to Rule 77 the following senators, to wit: Honourable Senators Beaubien, Buchanan, Copp, Haig, Horsey, Meighen, Tanner, White and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several standing committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.