

In order that the answer may be complete, it is necessary to indicate the origin and evolution of the policy upon which it is based.

As you know, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was established by act of parliament as a non-partisan public trust to control all broadcasting in Canada in the public interest. In accordance with this purpose the corporation was endowed with exclusive control of all network broadcasting and with a general responsibility for the character and content of all programs.

The relevant provisions of The Canadian Broadcasting Act, 1936, respecting the control and direction of network broadcasting are paragraphs 21 and 22, as follows:

"21. No private station shall operate in Canada as a part of a chain or network of stations except with the permission of, and in accordance with the regulations made by the corporation.

"22. (1) The corporation may make regulations:

(a) to control the establishment and operation of chains or networks of stations in Canada."

The relevant provisions of the act relating to the corporation's control of all matter broadcast in Canada is section 22 (1) (c), (d), and (e) as follows:

"22 (1) The corporation may make regulations:

(c) to control the character of any and all programs broadcast by corporation or private stations;

(d) to determine the proportion of time which may be devoted to advertising in any programs broadcast by the stations of the corporation or by private stations, and to control the character of such advertising;

(e) to prescribe the proportion of time which may be devoted to political broadcasts by the stations of the corporation and by private stations, and to assign such time on any equitable basis to all parties and rival candidates."

I have deliberately set out the above provisions in order to indicate the intentions of parliament. That the authority vested in the corporation has been exercised as intended is perhaps best illustrated by the following quotation from the report of the parliamentary committee on broadcasting of 1938:

"The bulk of the evidence concerned the program, technical and financial policies of the corporation. Your committee is of the opinion that these policies are well designed to carry out the purpose for which the corporation was created. Your committee is also of the opinion that the policies of the corporation are being executed in a business-like fashion."

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 condition: (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