

Motions for Papers

put before us? For example, do we know that the C.B.C. is attempting to present all sides of the argument, and not just one side? When we are dealing with the media of broadcasting and television, what counts in getting a particular point of view across is not necessarily the words used, but the tone of voice, the particular stare or smirk of the person uttering the words, the particular type of background he may be outlined against, the type of music which is used in accompanying his remarks. All of these have an effect on the message that is received by the viewer or listener.

The use of the printed word, however, is quite different. It has a much different impact on the reader, for he is concerned with words and the choice of words. Printed material, too, can be twisted by the subtle use of words. Some write better than others. For example some newspaper stories coming out of Ottawa do not reflect what went on; some correspondents invent phrases that remain in the minds of the public.

● (6:50 p.m.)

In 1962 or 1963, Charles Lynch or Charles King—and I may be wrong in this—invented the phrase “Diefenbucks”.

An hon. Member: That was the *Winnipeg Free Press*, with a cartoon.

Mr. Reid: I believe a newspaper reporter started it. That phrase stuck more in the minds of the electorate than most of the logical and legitimate arguments against the government of the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert.

When the hon. member says that the C.B.C. is biased but that the printed word is not, I disagree with him. Bias takes many forms.

Mr. Cowan: May I rise on a point of order. If my hon. friend will read my remarks on this matter he will see that I said it is a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Mr. Reid: I read the hon. gentleman's remarks of March 9, 1967, when he introduced his motion. He talked about the bias of the C.B.C., and how its programs were biased. In effect he said that as members of parliament we wish to prevent bias and therefore we ought to exert our authority over the C.B.C. and obtain certain documents to gain greater control over the programming content of the corporation. I see the hon. member nodding his head in agreement.

An hon. Member: He is falling asleep.

[**Mr. Reid.**]

Mr. Reid: I will agree that many C.B.C. programs are shoddy. Yet we in this house are not always first class. We have our good days and our bad days, and the C.B.C., as an organization, suffers from the same defect.

Mr. Cowan: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Reid: The hon. member for York-Humber has elevated himself to a status above that of a mere member of parliament or of the human race. It is refreshing to see persons of such high calibre sitting here.

The hon. member implied that the bias of the printed word was minimal. That is true in part, yet it is not quite true. In reading old newspapers, during my historical researches, I saw how on the front page of a newspaper a political speech would be printed in full, and on the editorial page it would be torn apart. I suggest that that is good newspaper reporting. But that sort of thing seldom happens now. One may call the editorial page biased, but at least the newspapers of the past had the courtesy of announcing their bias on the front page; they were for the Grits or for the Tories. In the old days you got the facts; now you do not get them.

How often are the complete speeches of political leaders reprinted? Hardly ever, I suggest. Today journalists interpret what was said and the original words are seldom reported to the Canadian people. In that way the newspapers are biased, and modern newspapers are just as biased as our broadcasters.

I see the hon. member for Lotbinière wishes to speak. To maintain my good relations with hon. members from Quebec I shall yield the floor to him. Those good relations will vanish, probably, after the start of tonight's game.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I listened with the greatest interest to what was said this afternoon, and I understand the emotion of the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) when deploring the C.B.C.'s temerity, often displayed in programs which we could very well do without.

I am thinking, for instance, of last Sunday's program “Sunday” where we saw the hon. member for York-Humber. There I understood how the C.B.C. had bold programs.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the request submitted by the hon. member is quite justified.

It is a fact recognized by a number of people that it is becoming increasingly difficult and well-nigh impossible to exercise any