

learned, with satisfaction, that CBC management and CBC personnel are under an obligation to refrain from promoting their views through the publicly owned facilities at their disposal.

36. However, the Committee does not believe that CBC neutrality in controversial matters should be so scrupulous as to detract from its liveliness. Your Committee thinks that a balance can be found between personal editorializing and dullness inspired by fear of public reactions. As far as possible, each program should seek a proper balance but obviously this is not always feasible, and a series of programs must therefore be regarded as a whole.

37. The same observation applies to the choice of performers. It is easy to find people whose blandness and lack of personality makes them perfectly "safe" but this can inhibit lively broadcasting. What the CBC needs is the type of performers with strong individuality and personal opinions but who are aware of their own biases and are capable of keeping them in check. Objectivity is as difficult to attain as it is difficult to define. All journalists have to strive for it but none, including those employed by the CBC, should be expected to achieve it automatically. The best one can hope for is a sincere and constant effort toward high standards of journalistic honesty. The search for such standards, however, could severely cripple creativity if it were promoted too rigorously.

38. The Committee wishes to emphasize that in view of the prime importance of lively, provocative, constructive TV and radio, culturally and otherwise, particularly in the field of public affairs, no effort should be spared to attain this goal. It agrees with the concept of public affairs programs which are designed to attract the largest possible audience and involve in public affairs those not usually attracted by traditional broadcasting.

39. Finally it should be stated here that under Parliamentary rules all witnesses are compellable witnesses and were called and required to answer questions put to them, and therefore, there must be no action taken against them as a result of their testimony.

40. Your Committee wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the witnesses and to those who have made written submissions for their frankness and willingness to cooperate.

41. To conclude, your Committee wishes to restate that it "felt that it should inquire into the matter" (This Hour Has Seven Days) "and concern itself, not with the dispute as such, but with the more general situation that had given rise to the quarrel within the CBC". In future hearings, the Committee will be examining in general the estimates of the CBC and the BBG and with leave of the House of Commons, the Government's White Paper on Broadcasting.

42. As a wide ranging inquiry into broadcasting may be protracted, any possible amendments to the Broadcasting Act may not be made for quite some time. In future hearings the Committee hopes to be able to take note that the Board and Management have taken action to resolve the present situation that exists in CBC Public Affairs broadcasting. In the meantime, however, the Committee, like many others, is concerned that steps be taken to ensure adventurous public affairs programming for next season.