

The WITNESS: That is one reason we are not keen to do it.

Mr. GAUTHIER (*Portneuf*): I am speaking for those who once in a while in the House and here in the committee advocate economy on the part of the C.B.C. All this would add more expense to the C.B.C., and besides, we cannot ask the C.B.C. to take this responsibility of gathering news and putting news on the air, taking the whole responsibility for the way it is analyzed or discussed. At the present time the press is taking the responsibility, and the C.B.C. is paying them for it. I do not see why we would try to impose another responsibility on the C.B.C.

Mr. MURRAY: You send a man to Paris to report on present proceedings going on there.

Mr. GAUTHIER (*Portneuf*): It is not the same thing at all.

Mr. MURRAY: It certainly is world politics and this is national politics.

Mr. GAUTHIER (*Portneuf*): The man in Paris is more of a commentator.

Mr. MURRAY: He is a special man sent by the C.B.C. to Paris to accompany Mr. Pearson and the other delegates.

*By Mr. Langlois:*

Q. If I understood Mr. Dunton correctly, he said that the editing staff of the C.B.C. makes a selection of the news gathered from the various news agencies. I would like to know, now, from him if there are any set rules this staff has to follow to safeguard the impartiality of the news.—A. Yes, we have very definite and very strict rules.

Q. You have?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Mutch:*

Q. Just on that point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that on occasion, at any rate, the news staff of the C.B.C. have been guilty of slanting the news, or permitted it to happen. Under this new set-up, the staff would always be liable to be linked with a slanting of the news. After all, it is a government agency of sorts, and if you were to maintain all the news gathering on your own I should think that the charge of slanting the news would be justified in many cases. I think the charge now arises out of the fact that you do edit and select it, and sometimes I think it is more of a coincidence that all the selections on a particular evening point in one way. I am perfectly well aware of the fact that you are bound by the same rules that newspapers use, that in order to use it, it must be news and that it is much more newsworthy if it is sensational, perhaps, than if it is the run-of-the-mill type of news. Making due allowance for that, it seems to me that to attempt, at this stage, to set up a party who would report on parliament would lay you wide open to the treatment that would follow, such as I suggested a moment ago.—A. Has there been any suggestion that the news is being slanted, and in what direction?

Q. I would hate to disturb the serenity of the C.B.C. if they are not aware that the suggestion has been made. I assure you it has.—A. I can say that over the last several years we have had several suggestions as to that. It has been suggested to us that the news has been slanted in favour of the government, that it has been slanted in favour of the Conservatives, and also in favour of the C.C.F.

*By Mr. Langlois:*

Q. What are the precautions taken to avoid that? I did not say it, but someone mentioned that the news was being slanted. I would like to know what precautions are taken to safeguard the principle of impartiality in the news.—A. The same as in any other news agency. In the first place, there are very