

I do not know if I am answering your question now or not.

**Senator McElman:** Well, I would like to ask a supplementary to this. Let us forget about the CAB approach for the moment; but the reaction of broadcasters to the Canadian content and other proposals currently before them by the CRTC is that it is too expensive and it is required in too short a time.

In view of the period of time that has elapsed—I would remind you that the White Paper on Broadcasting of 1966 expressed the very intentions that are now being expressed in the proposed regulations. The report of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, etc., of the House of Commons was presented to Parliament on March 21, 1967, better than three years ago, which again stressed the very things that are being discussed now.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if I could very quickly read one paragraph of that. This is from the Commons Committee on Broadcasting:

“The Committee concurs with the White Paper’ statement of objectives. We are convinced that Canadians want radio and television programs of Canadian origin and character, although programs produced in the United States are available to a majority of Canadians who obviously enjoy them. A Canadian identity demands public affairs and news programs about Canada and about the world through Canadian eyes. Canadian broadcasters have a special responsibility to provide such programs because they will not come from any other source. Although the United States will continue to be a source of many dramatic and variety programs on Canadian stations, Canadian broadcasters must develop such programs in Canada to the fullest extent which availability of talent and resources permits.”

It goes on further to talk about what is coming on, satellite, cable and all this sort of thing.

Here was expressed the will, the purpose, the aspirations of the Canadian people of what they wanted from broadcasters who have the privilege of a licence to use the air waves. Here was the expressed will and wish of the Canadian people through their Parliament.

My question is: why have the broadcasters of Canada, with that before them for a period going back to the White Paper of four years ago, been so slow in producing Canadian content, that the CRTC would be forced on behalf of the Canadian people to say “Here, finally you have got to do what the Canadian people asked you to do.”

**Mr. Audet:** Well, sir, I think my only answer to you can be Mr. Bonneau has told you what our percentages are.

**Senator McElman:** I am talking about broadcasters in general.

**Mr. Audet:** We have done what was announced in this White Paper. We have achieved that.

**Senator McElman:** Your station.

**Mr. Audet:** Yes. Now, in all sympathy with my industry colleagues, I think I must say that in the discussion of new regulations which I understand or we were lead to believe was only a White Paper, people brought out I think in all due democratic process, as we are doing this morning, certain considerations and certain qualms they had about certain aspects of the way things were done.

Now, please remember that I think it was profusely obvious in the written presentation brief of the CAB—perhaps I should not get into that ground. I want to point out I am not here to speak for the CAB position.

**The Chairman:** We appreciate that.

**Mr. Audet:** It has been reiterated on several occasions that the Association was entirely in favour of the objectives pursued. There was no idea of saying these objectives are not good. This is my own interpretation.

**Senator McElman:** But, sir, did they not subscribe to motherhood in the same fashion a number of years ago when the first Canadian content requirements were laid down? At the same time did they not make the same protest they are making to-day that these were impractical, unreachable and beyond their economical capacity to absorb?

**Mr. Audet:** Sir, I think I should perhaps ask you for mercy at this time because I am not here to defend the CAB but I think I will follow you one step further if the Chairman will permit.

**The Chairman:** Yes, of course.