

APPENDIX "A"

Copy (Translation)

Montreal, Que., November 6, 4:18 P.M.
 The Honourable Judy LaMarsh,
 Secretary of State,
 House of Commons,
 Ottawa, Ontario.

Madame, you have recently stated on private and public television that the CBC must be factor in national unity, and whoever is not ready to conform to this aim should leave the corporation. You are already interpreting the bill on broadcasting in a manner which is most disturbing and which compromises the exercise of our profession. We take objection to the wording in a law which reads: The national broadcasting service should... contribute to the strengthening of national unity... We believe that our prime role, as producers, is to reflect and to interpret the living reality in a country. We do not believe that official government thinking is necessarily the kind of objective thinking which should be the basis of political and cultural information. The CBC is obliged to bring to light all forms of power in the sense that it must allow a confrontation of forces and debates on the relative values of any given society. If we are to be the vehicle for or to promote one political line then we are willingly conniving for or to promote one political line then we are willingly conniving with an organ of propaganda. We have at all times refused to do so; we refuse to do so today, when what you are saying is in short, that the Left will be tolerated on the condition that it be reactionary. And in this way our function as producers will remain while governments come and go. And thus will it be as long as "Ici Radio Canada" and "This is the CBC network" are heard by Quebecers, "Canadiens" and "Canadians".

The Association of Producers
 Claude Sylvestre, Secretary

P.S. The Association include CBC television producers in Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Halifax, Cornerbrook, St. Johns (Newfoundland), Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver. For the promotion of the interests of "Canadiens" and "Canadians".

The Secretary of State
 Le Secrétaire d'État
 Copy (Translation)

Ottawa, November 9, 1967

Dear Mr. Sylvestre,

I have your telegram of November 6 on behalf of the Association of Producers.

Let me first offer the reassurance, if such is required, that there is nothing in the Broadcasting Act nor is there any intention on the part of the government to in way interfere with the fundamental right of Canadians, whether CBC employees or otherwise, to hold personal and private political views of their own choosing. The issue then is solely in terms of the responsibilities of CBC employees as, in a very real sense, the custodians of a powerful and valuable national asset provided and supported by the people of Canada.

I trust that I am interpreting your telegram correctly in thinking that we are agreed, too, that no CBC employee has the right to use these facilities entrusted to him as a vehicle for promulgating his own political viewpoint, no matter what that might be. Nor has any employee the right to use these facilities in a manner subversive to the democratic process.

As for your role in positive terms, I support, and I believe the legislation supports, your own interpretation that it is "to reflect and to interpret the living reality in a country." I accept that statement, provided you mean by "reflect" an honest attempt to mirror the broad spectrum of Canadian viewpoints, and by "interpret" an honest effort to present and explain these viewpoints with balance and perspective.

Nor can I take any objection nor find any in the legislation to your thesis that the CBC should not be "an organ of propaganda" in promoting particular political policies or points of view of any government, party, movement or indeed of any individual.

The Corporation does have a definite right, indeed an obligation, to ensure that these