

programming, just as a basic rule. We all want Canadian programming. Surely this programming can be distributed to others than just the CBC stations because you can use the same program in different context and they program, as you know, in a way to sort of appeal to all different segments of the communities at a different time. If this same programming can be shown on other stations or heard on other stations at different times, I think it may be very helpful.

I do not know if I have answered specifically your question. In our case apart from the news network and the cable network we are putting together, cable supplying. It is distributing rather than a network. Network is too glamorous a term. We have had football broadcasts which are of course old hat and you are used to. We have recorded the members of the Toronto Symphony in the summer and distributed these free to 12 stations that played it.

Again you have a problem. I do not want to take too much time but the CBC have contracts with most of the cultural groups and the rates that are set are very high and it is not possible for private broadcasters to compete, if you will, and in my opinion it is damned nonsense to try and compete.

I think that these programs that the taxpayers pay for should be made available to all the broadcasting stations.

The Chairman: I wonder if I may ask a supplementary question. You were talking about your news policy. I was interested in your comment about reliance on or use of ABC. Did you mean the reliance on as well as the use of ABC material is being reduced?

Mr. Rogers: Yes, I think so. I think there is a growing consciousness and competitiveness to get news in our own country.

The Chairman: The comments you have made this morning about Canadian news content and so on, I think are very refreshing, and speaking, not for the Committee, but only as one person, I agree with you. I am curious to know why you carry on your programming schedule such an avowed right-wing American political commentator as Paul Harvey. I have listened to that program. I believe he is still on. I have listened to him within the last week or two. I cannot ever recall hearing a Canadian news item on there.

Mr. Vaughn Bjerre, Vice-President and Manager of Rogers Broadcasting Limited): May I answer that question.

The Chairman: Certainly.

Mr. Bjerre: May I say first of all I do not think there is a broadcast news network in the country that to some extent does not rely on a foreign affiliation for coverage of international news and that includes the CBC.

We just do not have the resources to cover all of the international news centres without making some sort of affiliation with an American or other network.

The Chairman: Agreed.

Mr. Bjerre: We try to get around this a bit. We have an arrangement with the *Toronto Telegram* where we use their 10 or 12 international correspondents. This means that we can often get a Canadian story from overseas that is normally not covered by an American network.

Sometimes we can get a Canadian slant on a story that we would not get from the American network.

Now, I see nothing wrong...

The Chairman: Before you go any further, you say you have an arrangement with the *Toronto Telegram*. What do they get out of the arrangement?

Mr. Bjerre: We pay them.

The Chairman: Oh fine.

Mr. Bjerre: We pay them a yearly fixed cash sum and they guarantee us a minimum of 400 or 500 reports a year.

As far as Paul Harvey is concerned, I do not think a broadcasting organization should get to the point where we try to become so Canadianized there is no room for any expression that is not Canadian.

Paul Harvey is the one and only American commentator on our station but we have several Canadian commentators and it is a matter of time. Of the many hours a day that we devote to news and news commentary, Paul Harvey gets six or seven minutes so there certainly is not an imbalance there, I do not think.

The Chairman: Do you think Paul Harvey is a good news commentator?

Mr. Bjerre: I do not think it matters so much whether I think he is a good news commentator or not. There are listeners who