

**Mr. Fortier:** I think you reviewed this history in your brief. In those days the Department of Transport merely satisfied itself, before granting or refusing a permit, that the hardware was in good condition. Is that a fair statement?

**Mr. Boucher:** Well, not quite. Firstly, from the late fifties DOT licenses were required. In 1963 the Department of Transport then adopted the policy—as a matter of fact, they froze licensing of cable at that time and adopted the policy of referring each application to the BBG, which is not unlike considerations that the CRTC are giving CATV applications today.

**Mr. Fortier:** But I think you will agree that the BBG never went into the applications in the way that the CRTC is doing today?

**Mr. Boucher:** I accept that.

**Mr. Fortier:** I think you can speak in your capacity as President of the Association to this question: did any one of your members originally envisage doing anything more than a passive role as operators of CATV systems? When you and your colleagues went into the business, what was your first intention?

**Mr. Boucher:** Well, if we go back in time to 1952 the prime motive at that time was certainly the primary function and this continued to be the case for the majority of systems and probably still is today.

We have statistics that indicate how many would like to actively participate in cablecasting. That is in our brief so I won't dwell on that.

In large urban centres, in a more general way, there were cable operators at that time that envisaged that role. Some in fact in the Montreal area did engage in that role. I think they have been originating since the late 1950's and never stopped and are still continuing to do so.

In that sense let us say that in the larger systems there was appreciation of this aspect.

**Mr. Fortier:** There was also appreciation and co-operation from the television stations and the television networks, was there not?

**Mr. Boucher:** I am afraid not. It went the other way.

**Mr. Fortier:** From the earliest days there was antipathy?

**Mr. Boucher:** Well, I can only speak from experience since 1958 and 1959 and I know of certain experiences where there certainly was not co-operation. I suppose if you appreciate the broadcaster, seeing this type of thing develop, he was very naturally apprehensive. In areas where co-operation was tried within the network, for instance, its efforts quickly came to an end.

**Mr. Fortier:** So your evidence today is to the effect you were always viewed with suspicion by the broadcasters?

**Mr. Boucher:** I think we were guilty until we could prove our innocence in that sense.

**Mr. Fortier:** The area of closed circuit broadcasting, as you say in your brief, even Mr. Juneau has implied that perhaps the CRTC did not have jurisdiction over it. Is it your view, as an association, if not the CRTC, that is a Federal administration agency, then there should be provincial agencies which should have jurisdiction over the closed circuit broadcasting?

**Mr. Boucher:** Well, firstly there is jurisdiction over the licensee simply because it is a condition of license today and that control exists with the CRTC.

**Mr. Fortier:** I don't want to get into a legal hassle.

**Mr. Boucher:** Let me put it this way: I think it would have to be one or the other. I don't think we could live with two masters.

**Senator Prowse:** Or without any?

**Mr. Boucher:** Without any... I think the natural realm of community programming is very restrictive in itself. I think there is a lack of appreciation that you seldom, if ever, get 100 per cent penetration in a market. The averages are given in our brief and in Montreal, I believe, it is something in the order of 16-17 per cent penetration of that market and maybe the high in Canada might be in the order of 70-75 per cent. So that I think you cannot reach everyone. By virtue of the type of signal it is primarily in existence to supply—simply because of our passive role—our customers would not be paying for this. I am not saying it would not be done.

I might sum up by saying that many cable operators are most interested in the challenge this provides for them. It is so new, we are experimenting. We don't know where it is going to lead us. We are being encouraged by