

and the Board with whom the ultimate responsibility should rest for the overall CBC operation. This recommendation should be implemented now, notwithstanding the fact that the Committee has not yet undertaken the overall review of the organizational framework of the CBC which it intends to make this fall.

(d) *Policies of Public Affairs Broadcasting*

29. Your Committee holds the view that a publicly owned broadcasting system like the CBC should never be used as the instrument of any ideological propaganda. Your Committee also believes that the CBC as such should provide no opinion of its own except the basic tenets of democracy and freedom. But these tenets are not so weak and pliable as to be unable to withstand controversy if presented fairly and in a balanced manner. As Sir Hugh Greene, Director General of the BBC, put it in an address to the International Catholic Association for Radio and Television, entitled "The Conscience of the Programme Director" in February, 1965: "Without true independence, it is difficult for any broadcaster to maintain the highest standards of truth, accuracy and impartiality. Conversely, of course, without a reputation for these things—truth, accuracy and impartiality—it is difficult for any broadcasting organization to be recognized as truly independent and to be generally trusted.

30. "Truth and accuracy are concepts which are not susceptible of legal definition. The Government in Britain is content (after forty years experience of the BBC) to recognize that the BBC tries to honour these concepts and to treat with due impartiality all controversial subjects.

31. "But although, in the day-to-day issues of public life, the BBC does try to attain the highest standards of impartiality, there are some respects in which it is not neutral, unbiased or impartial. That is, where there are clashes for and against the basic moral values—truthfulness, justice, freedom, compassion, tolerance.

32. "Nor do I believe that we should be impartial about certain things like racialism, or extreme forms of political belief. Being too good "democrats" in these matters could open the way to the destruction of democracy itself. I believe a healthy democracy does not evade decisions about what it can never allow if it is to survive.

33. "... some political and social ideas are so clearly damaging to society, to peace and good order, even in their immediate effects, that to put at their disposal the enormous power of broadcasting would be to conspire with them against society. Here it is extremely difficult to know where to draw the line. The answer must vary from case to case, from country to country."

34. Your Committee agrees that although the answer must vary with the country, in Canada at least "a healthy democracy does not evade decisions about what it can never allow if it is to survive". Furthermore, a healthy democracy should be able to withstand challenges to beliefs and conscience if forthrightly broadcast with taste, balance and understanding.

35. No evidence was presented to your Committee which would indicate that the Corporation has been subjected to any pressure or intervention on the part of the Government or political parties. Conversely, the Committee