

of government it is usually the executive that proposes national broadcasting policies to Parliament and any financial arrangements to carry them out. There is also a difference in that the system of closely inter-related public and private operations has been under the general co-ordination of one body responsible to Parliament - the CBC.

In this country broadcasting is also set apart from other activities I think by the amount and intensity of discussion about it. At times perhaps some of those of us engaged in either the public or private aspect of it could wish there was a somewhat lesser degree of discussion. But then we should probably console ourselves by the fact that all this shows what a vital activity it is, and it is helpful to hear and sense the many views expressed, although we would wish they didn't contradict each other as much.

Certainly I can't think of any other activity which has been probed and considered so many times and at such length by Royal Commissions and Parliamentary Committees, quite apart from all the discussions among the public, in the press, by governments and in Parliament.

The history of broadcasting in this country from one viewpoint seems to go in recurring Royal Commission cycles, with regularly succeeding phases. There is the pre-Royal Commission phase when everyone is waiting for a body of enquirers to be set up, and certain decisions have to be postponed for that reason. Then there is the long period of Royal Commission work itself when many people in broadcasting spend a large part of their time writing briefs, reading the briefs of others, or explaining to enquirers about how things work in broadcasting. Then there is the post-Royal Commission phase when people in broadcasting wait for other people to read the report of the Royal Commission, and form their own opinions about what it says. Towards the end of this phase presumably come decisions, related or not as the case may be to the report of the Commission. I think the hope of most people in broadcasting usually is that the decisions following one Royal Commission report are made before another Commission looms up on the horizon.

Then, of course, there is the Parliamentary Committee cycle - with also its recurring phases, too, and with always the possibility of recommendations for major changes appearing.

At the moment broadcasting is in a post-Royal Commission phase. And so, I can't tell you much about the future in television or radio: about what the structure for co-ordination under major policies will be; or what will be the financial arrangements, on which in turn depend the future of the Canadian production and distribution, and the organization and facilities for it.