

**Mr. Fortier:** How do actors feel towards this non-professional presentation by cable casters of local situation presentations?

**Mr. Knight:** Well, our attitude towards it has been up until now, without anticipating what is going to happen in future, broadcasters, like anybody else, have to learn, they have to train, they have to find out how to use materials, how to use broadcasting, and that is as good a place as any as far as we are concerned at the moment. This applies to people who are working within a limited range. Now, if they come and ask our members, we are into a different situation. We are a group of professionals and we expect to be paid for the professional work that we do, but we have no objection to other type of broadcasters using that kind of material.

**Mr. Fortier:** Isn't this an area where you should seek the assistance of the cable owners?

**Mr. Knight:** Yes, as a matter of fact, we are actively at the beginning of conversations with the cable operators, at the moment. The CRTC meetings last week brought them all together and they stopped us in the corridors and asked us to talk and we have agreed to a series of meetings.

**Mr. Fortier:** So the hardware is there. The qualified obligation has been imposed on the cablecasters by the CRTC. Will the talent be available?

**Mr. Knight:** Oh, in large numbers.

**Mr. Fortier:** There is enough Canadian talent to go around?

**Mr. Knight:** There is enough Canadian talent to do anything that is thrown at us.

**Mr. Fortier:** Even 100 per cent Canadian talent?

**Mr. Knight:** Oh, yes indeed if it is necessary.

**The Chairman:** Senator Prowse?

**Senator Prowse:** Well, this is the area that I was wanting to get into earlier. This may be unfair and I will agree that it is before I start that...

**The Chairman:** That has not inhibited you before!

**Senator Prowse:** Well, I got awfully fed up with looking at program after program and seeing the same faces except at different ends of the podium and perhaps, unfairly, this is where the unfair part comes in—I picked up the idea that this was because they themselves had a real tight-closed shop.

**Mr. Knight:** The nature of our agreement with all broadcasters is the same and what it amounts to is this. They will ask any non-qualified performer to work with our member and it means simply this: any person that they want to hire, they are free to hire and the only qualifications being that they must pay them our rates and be qualified by the Association. In other words, they have agreed they will not—because the person is not established professionally in the sense that he is a member of this Association or some other Association—be it that he comes from another part of the world—ask him to work for lower rates, but they are quite free to engage anybody they choose. There is no prohibition in any of our agreements in that regard.

**Senator Prowse:** In other words when a person gets hired to do a job he automatically becomes a member of your Association?

**Mr. Knight:** No. Our constitution requires him to have four professional engagements before he becomes a member of our association.

**Senator Prowse:** How in the heck does he get four professional engagements if nobody else can hire him unless he belongs to you?

**Mr. Knight:** When I was trying it out in Montreal, it required 10 and I got the 10.

**Senator Prowse:** Well, how do you do it? If they won't let you work...

**Mr. Knight:** Oh, that's not true.

**Senator Prowse:** Well, explain it to me then.

**Mr. Knight:** We will not let them work at rates that are lower than ours. We negotiate minimum rates and anybody who is going to work in the area where our members are employed, all work at the same rate.

**Senator Prowse:** Yes.

**Mr. Knight:** These are minimum rates, you understand. They are not by any means the