

Thank you so much.

May I say to the Senators we will adjourn until 4.00 p.m. when we will meet in Room 356-S to receive the brief from Actra.

The Committee adjourned.

Upon resuming at 4.00 p.m.

The Chairman: Honourable Senators, if I may call the session to order. The brief we are receiving this afternoon is from the Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists, sometimes known as ACTRA. Sitting on my right is Mr. Victor Knight, who is the National President of ACTRA, and he is himself an actor, and on my immediate right is Mr. Jack Gray, who is a playwright and writer, and he is more importantly for today a member of the Actra executive. On my immediate left is Mr. Paul Siren, who is the General Secretary of the Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists.

Mr. Knight, I will simply say to you that the brief that you were kind enough to prepare in compliance with our guidelines has been received and presumably studied by the Senators. The procedure we follow here is relatively informal. We would like you now to make a formal opening statement if you wish, taking 10, 12 or 15 minutes and following that we would like to question you on the contents of your brief, on your oral remarks and perhaps other matters as well. If any of the questions we put to you, you would like to pass on to Mr. Siren or Mr. Gray, please feel free to do so.

Thank you and welcome.

Mr. Victor Knight, National President of the Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists: Is it permitted in the opening remarks to hand some of them over to my colleagues?

The Chairman: By all means.

Mr. Knight: Those remarks which are more general, I will handle myself but those which are on copyright and things of that nature and rather more technical I would prefer to turn over.

The Chairman: Well, by all means.

Mr. Knight: Well, first Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might just point out exactly who we are: as you have already mentioned we are the Association of Television and Radio Art-

ists and we are a professional association and a trade union representing writers who work in films, television, radio and for the stage and for actors, singers, dancers, announcers and other performers who work in television, radio and films.

We have about 13,000 members organized in branches in Newfoundland, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Calgary, Edmonton and in Vancouver. The main thrust of this brief—if I may use these words, because they have been used a great many times these last few days at the CRTC hearings which have been taking place across the street—deals with programming in Canadian television or the ability or inability of Canadians to be heard and seen on Canadian television and the reasons for that lack of accessibility to television as a means of communication for Canadians.

The creation of original Canadian television programs in Canadian broadcasting is our main problem and more particularly a balance of programming, and perhaps if I may I would like to enlarge on that particular aspect.

The Chairman: Fine.

Mr. Knight: If you make a study of programming on Canadian television today, you will find they will divide fairly evenly between those programs which can be loosely described as being news, public affairs, education and sporting events and the balance being again those things which could be loosely described as being entertainment programming. When you look carefully at the programming, you will find the majority of these formal sub-sections that is 50 per cent of the programming, is Canadian made. News, public affairs, education and sporting events in the main are Canadian, and education again, in the main is Canadian. Entertainment however, is in the main foreign-made.

Looking at a particular week's programming, and bearing in mind also that the CBC's record in this particular area is far better than any other broadcasters in Canada, of all of the programming, 10 per cent of it was Canadian, whereas 43 per cent of it was American or imported entertainment shows. We find this particularly disturbing and significant for these reasons: the main purpose of Canadian programming is said to present Canadians to ourselves, to each other and to people abroad. What we seem to be doing however, is to concentrate on public affairs