

be free to think what they like; to say what they like, as long as they keep within the law; to make up their own minds; to get what opinions they want to get in making up their own minds.

In other media it is fairly easy to assure that the freedom of expression is basic in our society. For instance, in ordinary speech a person can say anything they like as long as they do not contravene the law. There is no limitation on the number of printing presses, so under our laws and our principles we say there is no limitation outside the law on what anybody shall print. Thereby we expect, and do get a great measure of freedom to circulation of opinions from the printing press.

Broadcasting, however, is different. Broadcasting depends on the use of a few air channels that belong to the public, and the freedom to get opinions by those air channels will only exist if in fact there are a number of different viewpoints on those channels. Those channels belong to the public. That seems to be the only way in which principles of freedom of expression, of freedom of mind, can be applied in broadcasting—that there is in fact a situation under which all main viewpoints have an opportunity to express themselves, and under which our people have an opportunity to hear all main viewpoints. And that in this field of opinion and ideas is the function of the C.B.C. as we have understood it. We are in effect the trustees of air channels that belong to the public, and it is up to us to try to see that those air channels are used in the interest of freedom, that all the main viewpoints do have a fair chance to be heard. Those are the principles that have been approved by parliamentary committees in the past. I would like to read one or two excerpts from the White Paper on these matters, which has been approved by a number of parliamentary committees in the past. I would like to read one or two excerpts from the White Paper on these matters, which has been approved by a number of parliamentary committees in the past. On page 5 of our booklet on policies and rulings is the following:

The Corporation does not exercise censorship. It does not restrict the nature of material to be broadcast, except to see that such material conforms with its printed regulations.

The policy of the C.B.C., with regard to controversial broadcasting, is based on the following principles:

1. The air belongs to the people, who are entitled to hear the principal points of view on all questions of importance.
2. The air must not fall under the control of any individuals or groups influential by reason of their wealth or special position.
3. The right to answer is inherent in the democratic doctrine of free speech.
4. Freedom of speech and the full interchange of opinion are among the principal safeguards of free institutions.

Those are the principles generally on which we have tried to operate, the principles as we understand them, and parliament has approved them. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation does not try to decide what are the right opinions and what are the wrong opinions. It does not approve of any opinions that go on the air, it does not disapprove of them. If the C.B.C. were to try to say "that is a good opinion and it can go on the air, and that is a bad one, therefore that will not go on the air", then we would be in a position of having to be saying what opinions should be available to people and what opinions should not be available to people. You would have the same sort of thing that happens in totalitarian countries, where a public body decides what opinions may be heard and what opinions may not be heard by people. That is not our function