

Hon. Mr. Davey: I thank Senator Martin for his question. A press council has in fact been formed in the Province of Quebec. With Senator Martin's forebearance I will continue my present remarks and turn to that subject in a moment.

The Vancouver *Sun* on December 11 remarked that the committee was to be commended for the scope of its job and the speed with which it discharged it. An editorial in the Edmonton *Journal* of December 11 said:

Exhortations about improvement of the press by the press are salutary.

The editor of the London *Free Press* wrote as follows:

The Uncertain Mirror, however, is an excellent short course in journalism. Most of journalism's faults are laid bare, but fortunately the writers and those who approved it also mentioned the good points, too.

If you spend \$3.50 and read it, you'll be in an even better position to argue with newspapermen or broadcasters you know.

Gerald Waring of the Vancouver *Sun* on December 16 said:

—valuable as a social and historical work, as a documentary on the ways the media function at this stage of our social and national development—The Senate has held many inquiries over the years, but with rare exceptions it has not paid much attention to the question of how well specific industries and professions meet the needs of the society they serve. This is what the media inquiry does, and in fathering this probe, Sen. Keith Davey must have set a pattern for further Senate inquiries of vertical rather than horizontal nature.

The editor of the Woodstock, New Brunswick, *Bugle Gazette-Times*, Mr. Frank Withers, in a letter to the editor of the Saint John *Telegraph-Journal*, said:

The best evidence of the need for the media inquiry was the improvement in the Irving papers since the inquiry started.

Needless to say the style of the report came in for a great deal of comment and was almost universally praised. The only negative views came from the Halifax *Chronicle-Herald* which described the report as being "turgid". But most people liked the welcome change from Royal Commission prose: "vivid style", (Ottawa *Citizen*, December 19): "catchy reading, full of phrase-making and bon mots", (Michael Harrington in St. John's *Telegram*): "le ton, précis, direct—le style, vif, parfois cavalier", (Claude Gravel, *La Presse*, le 12 décembre): "readable, mod-mod report", (Anthony Westell, Toronto *Star*, December 10, and the *Star* itself said:

The style is never less than clear and direct—the better to puncture the pieties and platitudes of media owners—the pace is sprightly, and the tone ranges from urbanely tolerant to downright scathing.

Dalton Camp, writing in the Toronto *Telegram* of December 14, said: "The writing style is contemporary and

remarkably readable," though he called the report "probably the first of its kind to be praised for its tyle and damned for its content."

Senator Martin asked a moment ago about press councils and I shall come to that subject in a moment, but I want to tell you first of the reaction of the press of Canada. Reaction ranged from enthusiastic support, through "yes, but," to "no way," but without predictable division into the respective groups. Those in favour of such a move were the Edmonton *Journal* of December 11:

—such a council in Canada, free from government influence, would be a useful experiment. It could be a safety valve for citizens who felt they were seriously wronged in the press and probably could do constructive things for the profession.

The editor of the Winnipeg *Tribune* wrote also on December 11:

I feel strongly that readers and the public in general should have a forum for voicing their complaints and dissatisfaction with the newspaper. By the same token, the newspapers would have a forum in which to show that many of the complaints are groundless or based on misunderstanding.

Then on December 21 the Windsor *Star* said the following!

The Windsor *Star's* brief to the Davey Committee on mass media, presented more than a year ago, traced the development of press councils back to 1916 in Sweden, explained their function, and suggested three levels of council: local, provincial and national. The section of the brief which discussed press councils ended with this statement:

"The responsible newspaper has nothing to fear from any press council, government agency or public opinion in a democratic society."

Hon. Mr. Martin: You took that from a good paper.

Hon. Mr. Davey: I know it is highly regarded by some of my colleagues.

The main condition sought by the newspapers which were doubtful about a national press council was, of course, that such press councils should be set upon a regional basis. This view was expressed in the Toronto *Star* of December 10, and I quote:

—because of differing journalistic traditions in English—and French-speaking Canada, press councils would better be organized on a regional than a national basis... this venture in press self-discipline is overdue.

Again the regional view was upheld by the Calgary *Herald* on December 11, the Montreal *Star* on December 11, and the Winnipeg *Tribune* on December 11. Three Quebec papers, which stress the fact that the province has already agreed to set up a council, agree with the regional basis. These were *Le Soleil*, *La Presse* and *Le Devoir*.