

(June 27, 1966)
(2:40 pm - 5:50 pm)

REPORT OF PRESIDENT

In presenting this report, Mr. Ouimet noted the absence through illness of Messrs. Fraser and Hallman. He noted that the current crisis had occupied most of Management's attention since the last meeting, leaving time to deal only with essentials. Many major undertakings, such as the internal training programme and efficiency studies, have received little attention because of the necessary preoccupation of management with the "Seven Days" situation.

Approval has been received for the Corporation to call for tenders for the excavation and footings of the Montreal consolidation plant. The approval did not place limitations on the design of the project and, accordingly, the Corporation is proceeding with its total plan.

Speaking to the suggestion from the last meeting that Management consider the appointment of a Vice-President for news and current affairs, the President outlined the various discussions which had taken place with Senior Montreal and Toronto staff. There was little support for the suggestion that one person direct news and public affairs for both networks.

It was felt that present organizational arrangements render this impracticable. A single vice-presidency was only likely to be feasible if the news and current affairs departments of the two networks were operationally self-sufficient, with staff, studios and facilities for their exclusive use. Under the present arrangement they share in the use of facilities controlled by the radio and TV production units at each network centre.

Summing up, the President said it was Management's view that, while the appointment of a vice-president for news and public affairs should not be overlooked as a long-term possibility, such an appointment would be very difficult to make under present conditions. The President noted, in passing, that, as shown in testimony before the Parliamentary Committee, English network public affairs people are satisfied with the present organizational arrangement whereby policy direction of news and public affairs is segregated from the general direction of TV and radio at the divisional centre, while their French network counterparts would prefer to have the direction of news and public affairs reintegrated with the general TV and radio operations.

In addition, Management feels that there is need for a redefinition of principles and ethics in the news and current affairs field to ensure a greater uniformity of approach by the public affairs and news departments. It will be necessary to have a strong co-ordinator to oversee and ensure that both groups follow agreed principles.

The President reported that in recent discussions, News Service supervisory personnel have proposed the following developments:

- (a) Strong leadership now;
- (b) one authority for news and current affairs;
- (c) one policy applicable to both groups;
- (d) an integrated policy for the whole field of information broadcasting;
- (e) a co-ordinated operation between the two groups;
- (f) a free flow of staff from one group to the other;
- (g) immediate priority decisions;
- (h) flexibility as to structure.