

Mr. OUMET: May I repeat that our programs are packages. However, like in any sound business we negotiate the sale of programs. It may be that the agency will have a very good suggestion as to the content of the program. The agency may suggest one person rather than another. In this case, insofar as it is possible, we endeavour to reach a compromise. It is not a question of imposing one artist rather than another, or one program rather than another. It is a question of sound business practice and of sound negotiations generally speaking.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ouimet. We are getting a little off Item 3(c). This has to do with record of performance of commercial organization of past three years. I would say that has more to do with increases in sales.

Mr. BRASSARD (*Lapointe*): I do not know whether or not my question is in order. I will abide by your ruling. Would the C.B.C. tell the committee whether or not the social credit movement, or party or whatever it is called, could have some free time on the C.B.C. or could buy some time on the C.B.C. In doing so, I assure you I have no intention of trying to gain their favours.

The CHAIRMAN: I realize that.

Mr. LANDRY: This matter is on the agenda of the executive committee of the C.B.C. at their meeting this morning in Ottawa.

The CHAIRMAN: May we go to the next item, public relations and information services.

Mr. FISHER: I have to preface this question. Mr. Bushnell earlier provided me with some information to the effect that when the C.B.C. feels the press has been biased and misinformed, they take corrective measures to seek to put the correct facts forward. I would like to know what the reaction of the C.B.C. is going to be at the present time to alter the newspaper comment, especially editorial comment, which we are getting, and which to me is misinterpreting all these financial statistics.

Mr. LANDRY: I would like to have Mr. Fraser answer this question.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I have a supplementary question. Has Mr. Fisher read the letter in the *Gazette* this morning containing a correction from the C.B.C. on this very point?

Mr. R. C. FRASER (*Director of Public Relations, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*): The policy of answering editorials is this. If a newspaper has made an error in fact, we reply to it immediately.

Mr. FISHER: That would keep you pretty busy.

Mr. FRASER: It does indeed, especially since this committee started. If the newspaper is expressing an opinion, we have found from experience that it does not pay to try to answer that because if it is an opinion you can go on with an exchange of correspondence for years. We try to stick to errors in fact. We have done that, as Mr. Pickersgill pointed out, in the case of the *Gazette* yesterday and today.

Mr. FISHER: Have you ever considered being a bit more militant?

Mr. FRASER: Yes. I think we have become more militant, especially in the past year or so.

Mr. FISHER: I observe that these Bay street vigilantes can only be handled with a bit of militancy.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: Could Mr. Fraser give us a brief description of the functions of the information service?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have a short statement?

Mr. FRASER: Basically, it is a question of providing an information service on the output of our programming services in two languages, the output of