

The memorandum warning journalists about commenting on the crisis read as follows:

“Each one of you must be aware of the public concern and anxiety which exists in Canada following the FLQ kidnappings and the bringing into force of the War Measures Act. Each of us should therefore be conscious of the high responsibilities we have as broadcaster to protect the integrity of the CBC and its program services in a period when information and opinion are so important to the community. Accuracy, impartiality, good judgement and respect for the law are essential. At this time let me reiterate the Corporation’s policy and tradition which prohibits staff members from taking public positions in matters of current political controversy. I bring this policy to your attention for your guidance. Any infringement of this policy by CBC staff can damage the credibility of the CBC program service and must be avoided. Regular on-air hosts of CBC programs in radio and television are in a specifically sensitive position. Since they are publicly identified with the conduct of the CBC programs they should be advised of the Corporation’s policy.” (E.S. Hallman, Vice President and General Manager, English Services Division).

Source: Library and Archives of Canada, Canadian Civil Liberties Association Papers, R9833, vol.27, f.3, memorandum to all staff- CBC Policy in Matters of Public Controversy, 28 October 1970.