

## TV and radio

# A must tonight — the CBC look at separatism

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of The Gazette

They passed out hors d'oeuvres and screened a documentary yesterday in the VIP lounge of the CBC's International Pavilion on Cite du Havre.

The hors d'oeuvres were just ordinary but the documentary was just short of superb.

The CBC will show it on Tuesday Night this evening at 10 and you ought to mark it down as a must. It is called *Separatism — A Decade in Perspective* and it is, as you might expect, about the genesis and spread of the separatist movement in Quebec.

### DESBARATS SCRIPT

It is the first film to deal with separatism with a cold eye. This is largely because of a trenchant and wry script written by Peter Desbarats, who with this piece, establishes his position as the country's foremost broadcast journalist.

And it's a remarkable example of what can be achieved with newsfilm, when you apply timely freeze sequences and when you

choose music that is indigenous and hence movingly appropriate.

The credit for this belongs to Ian McLaren, a chap who spends most of his time producing for Hourglass but who began digging up material for this effort as early as last June.

McLaren sifted through more than 50 hours of tape and film and not all of it was stored at the CBC morgue in Montreal. He had a very hard time, for example, coming up with footage of the infamous Samedi de la Matraque, the night the Quebec City police mashed dozens of heads during the Queen's visit of 1964. It seemed that newsfilm of the incident was simply not to be found in the CBC's Montreal library.

Happily he got the stuff because it provides a most telling moment. Queen Elizabeth is riding down a Quebec street in her limousine when suddenly, and almost brutally, the voice of Renee Claude is running over the film and is singing, "Tu es noir, qu'est-ce-que tu fais ici . . ."

You do not have to have taken the Berlitz crash course to figure out the meaning of that.

*Separatism — A Decade in Perspective* has life throughout, stabbing but not hysterical, and it is, I think, the first successful try at putting it all together.

Trudeau, Lesage, Levesque and Johnson, —they are all sufficiently portrayed through interviews and public speeches and, because we are so familiar with these men, there isn't much surprising or new.

### LUMINOUS MOMENT

To be sure, there is one luminous moment, with Trudeau making a speech in French. He is often pedantic in English. In this scene he is a truly brilliant public figure.

But you will be impressed with the picture of Pierre Bourgault that emerges from the hour. Generally thought to be a rabble-rouser in the English community, he is here a figure of undeniable charisma and passion.

"How can we talk about victory," he tells an audience, "when all we have are martyrs . . . that's being colonized . . . that's why we cry out, vive General de Gaulle."

There is that moment in 1967 when de Gaulle stood on the balcony of City Hall and there are the elections and the conventions and the bombs.

The recent kidnap crisis, which caused the film's showing to be put off from October until now, is dealt with only as an afterthought of a section on the FLQ. And that's as it should be because the idea was to deal with the growth of a movement through a decade and too long a pause on the kidnappings would have distorted the ultimate picture.

"We really didn't change much," Desbarats said when it had finished. "We were told to have it ready in October, this was after Cross had been kidnapped. But then the whole thing escalated and it was postponed. But essentially the thing was complete then."

Desbarats addressed the '70s only a touch, right at the end. Sitting in the Paul Sauve Arena, where Levesque had made his election night appearance last spring, Desbarats declared that "the choices we will have to make are becoming much more clear in the '70s."