In contrast to RST's film on Botswana, the Huntley-Brinkley show at the time of Botswana independence talked of and showed a poor, dreary, hopeless country, "the debris of the Empire," in their words.

The program emphasized their poverty, their dependence on Britain for budgetary and development aid, but made, apparently, almost no mention of their relationship to South Africa. The dying cattle were shown, and it was asserted that Botswana would not be able to feed herself for at least five years. The program stated Botswana has a $14m capital city, Gaborone, but no dentist, and only 25 college graduates. They will have full rights in the UN and won't pay anything for decades. The people were apparently shown as poor, dusty, dreary.

I did not see the presentation myself but asked someone usually very objective to take careful notes.

Winifred Armstrong