

Q. And you do give quite a lot of time to these broadcasts?—A. Yes.

Q. I think the people of Canada like them and appreciate them. There has never been any complaint about the time spent on them; the only complaint has been that you have not given them enough?—A. We even have complaints that there is too much time for religious broadcasting. We do not listen to them. But we do have complaints.

Q. But you sponsor broadcasts of the kind that we are discussing here with a view to setting them off as a sort of counter-balance to religious broadcasts?—A. No. We do not take a neutral attitude towards religious broadcasts. We think that religion plays a principal part in the life of this country, and that it is part of our function to see that there is a good measure of religious broadcasting, in fact a very generous measure, which we have tried to improve and extend in the last few years. For example, we have started the new National Sunday Evening Hour in an effort to bring to many these religious broadcasts, and to make them more real and effective. We do not deliberately try to set up other broadcasts as a counter-balance to religious broadcasts. We do not try to see to it that things which these religious speakers may say on the air are given an opportunity to be refuted by arguments made against them. Broadcasts like these are simply an effort to provide some hearing for various views. They take up but little time in the course of a year. They are an effort to see that some of the main view-points may have an opportunity of expression, because many Canadians wish to hear them, and of those many, there are a lot who are strongly religious people and strong religious adherents.

Q. So there are times when the C.B.C. has occasion to review the scripts before they go on the air and sometimes deny the opportunity to deliver them?—A. I know of no such occasion.

Q. But I do know of one. It is true that it is not a recent one. It is one which I gave you once before. It was an anti-communist broadcast to be delivered by Professor Watson Kirkconnell before the Canadian Club in Toronto, at which time I was the chairman. It was about five years ago; and about two minutes before he was to have gone on the air we received a telegram saying that the broadcast would not be permitted, and it was not permitted. The reason given was that the questions to be raised on that broadcast would offend the regulations. You recall the instance before?

The CHAIRMAN: That matter was raised in the 1944 committee, was it not?

Mr. FLEMING: Yes; and I raise it again today not in order to thrash old straw, but simply to ascertain whether there is any machinery set up by the board of governors to review scripts and to intervene in cases such as that one, and to prohibit the broadcasting of certain scripts?

The WITNESS: I think it was made clear at the parliamentary committee, when this incident came up before, that the incident occurred during the war, and that whatever happened did not have to do with C.B.C. regulations, but rather with censorship regulations. And I think it was brought out that the corporation obtained a legal opinion on it. I think Dr. Thompson, the general manager at the time, got a legal opinion on it, and whatever he said was because of things which applied in war time. I would be glad to check back into the details. But I think that particular incident was a wartime one as to which the ordinary C.B.C. regulations or policy were not concerned.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. May we take it then that there is no machinery within the C.B.C. to review scripts of intended broadcasts?—A. No. All our people are under firm instructions not to change any script because of opinions in it. The responsibility is that of the station manager or the official in charge of the