

stations by one individual or one group, and we keep away from that. I do not recall that we have recently recommended any permits for stations which belonged to the owner of another station.

The CHAIRMAN: May I call your attention to the report of 1942, page 1095:

Your committee further recommends that every effort be made to obviate duplication of broadcasts in the same areas and provide listeners with alternative programs. At present eight broadcasting stations are owned or controlled by one interest and six by another. Under the existing law and regulations, the minister (at present the Minister of Munitions and Supply) is given power to license private stations upon the recommendation of the corporation and a licence may not be transferred without permission of the minister. To prevent dangerous concentrations of broadcasting stations in private hands, your committee recommends that the regulations and practice be changed so that:—

(a) Neither the ownership nor the shares evidencing ownership of a station shall be transferred without the authority of the minister;

(b) A station shall be owned and operated by the holder of the licence;

(c) Except in the most unusual circumstances, no one shall hold more than one licence;

(d) The responsible minister and the corporation shall have the power to obtain all information necessary to carry out these provisions and to ensure that private stations are operated for the benefit of the nation and of the communities in which they are located. If necessary, the revenues, profits, and expenditures of privately owned broadcasting stations should be ascertained in order to see whether the licence fees payable by them to the government are adequate and if the public service rendered by them is commensurate with the direct and indirect profits and advantages enjoyed by them from the right to use a broadcasting channel.

*By Mr. Coldwell:*

Q. Have the regulations been changed to apply this recommendation?—

A. There have been no regulations but the board has lived up to this recommendation to a great extent. I cannot recall now of any station having been recommended as an addition to a group. I have even been told—this is only rumor that Mr. Thompson is now buying papers because he knows he cannot extend his ownership in radio.

Q. Is he buying papers out of the profits of the radio stations?—A. You had better ask him that.

Q. I was going to say that the recommendation did not cover what I had in mind which was the concentration of control over the information agencies by three or four groups in this country.

Hon. Mr. LAFLÈCHE: I think that is the point. Please read it again.

Mr. COLDWELL: I had in mind newspapers as well. I think the government is quite logical in ordering the divorcement of air transportation from surface transportation. If they are logical in that it is logical to divorce radio stations from the newspapers; I think it is even more logical because it is a control of the channels of information which are vital to the community. I would like to see the committee consider that. I am not pressing it at the moment, but I should like to see the committee, when we make our report, consider what I regard to be a very important point. That is why I raised it. Mr. Carson raised it, and consequently it is open for discussion.

Mr. HANSON: Do you mean cancel radio licences which are now held by papers throughout Canada?