

and have his answers to them so that I may be able to form some accurate estimate of just what the C.B.C. is aiming at.

However, before I ask those questions, may I say that I have had great admiration for the C.B.C. ever since it began its activities. I have appreciated the high quality of programme that it has given the Canadian people. I have always felt that the C.B.C. had its place, just as I have felt that the private radio stations had theirs, and I have been of the view that the C.B.C. should keep its hands off private radio stations, leaving them to discharge their responsibility in the country. The evidence which has been presented before the house rather fills me with anxiety lest the C.B.C. is overstepping its bounds. I understand that when a private radio station receives its licence it is taken for granted that every year when it applies for a renewal of that licence it will receive that renewal on condition of good behaviour. I look upon the C.B.C., in reference to this parliament, in very much the same way. When the C.B.C. comes to parliament for grants of money to carry on each year I feel that it should look upon this as an application for the renewal of its licence, and I feel further that it should receive renewal of that licence on condition of good behaviour.

Some of the evidence which has come before us indicates that the C.B.C. has been trying to kick some of the private stations around. If that has occurred, then I believe the C.B.C. should be warned in the matter, advised to reform its ways in the future and given another chance.

In order to satisfy myself, I desire to ask a series of definite questions, for two purposes. First, they will give me an opportunity of learning things about the C.B.C. which I believe every member of the house ought to know and the country has a right to know. Then, it will give the government and the minister representing the C.B.C. a chance to set it right before the country. If there has been misrepresentation, such misrepresentation can be cleared away.

I am sorry I have not a copy of all these questions, but I have a copy of the first nine of them, and I shall send it to the minister so that he will be able to answer the questions one after the other. I should think he would not require a copy of the last ones in order to be able to answer them. I shall send the first ones to the minister, and shall proceed to ask the questions.

Is the government aiming to encourage the development of private radio stations in Canada? I take it, if that is the aim, then the C.B.C. must be aiming to do the same thing.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

Otherwise I must assume that it is beginning to act as though it were a law unto itself. If that should be shown to be the case, then I would suggest that the situation is not as it should be.

Is the government endeavouring to give the Canadian people what they want over the radio, or is the government aiming to give what the government, through the C.B.C., wants the Canadian people to hear?

If the government is trying to give the Canadian people what the Canadian people want, what steps has the government taken to make sure that it is doing this?

Is the government aiming to establish and maintain freedom of speech in Canada over the radio?

If so, what steps has the government taken—and when I refer to the government I would presume that we would mean the C.B.C.—to establish and maintain freedom of speech over the radio in Canada?

Does the government believe that the majority of the people in any given area of Canada—say a province, section of a province, an audience listening to a given local radio station—ought to be guaranteed the right to listen to any speaker or programme of the choice of those people in that area?

If so, what steps has the government or the C.B.C. taken to see that this state of affairs is brought about?

What in the minister's opinion ought to be the aim of radio in Canada?—entertainment, culture (literary, dramatic, or musical), education, enlightenment? If there are any others, the minister would be free to specify them.

Has the government provided adequate safeguards to prevent the C.B.C. from (a) impairing the strength and efficiency of private radio stations; (b) destroying the strength and efficiency of private radio stations; (c) destroying freedom of speech over private radio stations? What are the safeguards the government has taken in each of these respects?

From this series of questions dealing with the general attitude of the government and of the C.B.C. which, of course, would constitute their policy in Canada, I pass on to some details. The minister, I thought, resented the statement by the hon. member for Greenwood that, if this item were passed, it would ensure the destruction of private radio stations in Canada. I thought the minister was desirous of rising to refute that statement. I trust he will be able to make a good case in refutation of that charge.

I am now going to ask a number of questions about a particular case, so that the minister may put the facts on the record for all who are interested to read.