

EVIDENCE

APRIL 8, 1953

11.00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I see a quorum. I am afraid that your chairman has chosen a rather bad morning to hold our first meeting. I understand there are several caucuses and other events scheduled for this time. I wonder, under those circumstances, if it would be agreeable to the committee to hear a statement from Mr. Dunton and then perhaps defer our questioning until a meeting to be held tomorrow at an hour which is agreeable to the committee? Would that be agreeable?

Agreed.

Perhaps we could sit at 3.30 tomorrow afternoon. Would that be agreeable?

Agreed.

Since that is agreed, I shall now call on Mr. Dunton.

Mr. A. Davidson Dunton, Chairman, Board of Governors, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, called:

Mr. FLEMING: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is to be quite a brief statement, and that questions will be deferred until tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: That is right, yes.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, we have not any long, prepared presentation for the committee, perhaps because this year we have nothing special to ask the support of the committee for in the way of financial arrangements or things such as that.

I thought it might be useful to you if I, very briefly, reviewed developments since the period covered by the annual report, which I think the committee has before it.

On sound broadcasting there are really no major developments, or changes in policy, or changes in direction to report.

The main change in our physical facilities has been an extension of the French language network to western Canada. This extension went into operation last fall, and now links the former network in Quebec with French language stations in northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

A project has also been started for the establishment of a French station at Moncton, New Brunswick, which will also be linked with the same network, so that we will then have three national or nearly national networks of each well over 3,000 miles in length. These are the only real developments on the physical side.

On the programming side again there are no major changes in policy or direction to report. I think on the whole it has been a year of consolidation and general advance. I believe there have been improvements, and new programs, and new types of programming in just about every field of the corporation's programming work.

It has been more a development of previous broadcasting which you know, and as reported upon in the annual report, with, I think, quite worthwhile improvements in just about every department and every kind of broadcasting. I shall not take up your time to review them in detail, but if you wished, I could give them to you later.