

## BROADCASTING OWNERSHIP CHANGED

Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier announced recently that, after careful consideration of representations by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission and a number of holders of broadcasting licences, the Government had decided to issue a new ruling to the Commission regarding foreign ownership of the Canadian broadcasting system. The following are the principal changes from the previous regulations, issued last September, which are now revoked.

The previous rules did not apply to community antenna television (CATV) undertakings operating before April 1, 1968, under licence from the Department of Transport, but they were to be covered by a ruling to be issued later. Under the new directive, they will have to comply with all the requirements of Canadian ownership by September 1, 1970. Any applicant for a licence to establish CATV facilities that were not in operation on April 1, 1968, must conform immediately to the requirements.

### CORPORATE OWNERSHIP

A further change relates to the ownership of shares in a licence-holding corporation by other eligible Canadian corporations. Previously, 80 per cent of the voting shares of such shareholding corporations had to be held by one or more Canadian citizens; this requirement has now been modified to admit the holding of shares by a second holding corporation, provided that 80 per cent of its shares are owned by one or more Canadian citizens. There is a further provision that a personal corporation totally owned by Canadian citizens may be treated as a Canadian citizen.

Formerly, all directors of licence-holding corporations and eligible shareholding corporations were required to be Canadian citizens. This requirement still applies to licence-holding corporations, but it will now only be necessary for four-fifths of the directors of an eligible shareholding corporation to be Canadian citizens.

In defining Canadian ownership, the former ruling referred to shares to which were attached "votes exercisable under any circumstances". Now, the Commission is given discretion to determine whether shares that can only be voted in certain circumstances are to be regarded as having any effect on the control of the broadcasting undertaking concerned.

Some anomalies came to light with regard to the former requirement that 40 per cent of the total indebtedness of a broadcasting undertaking must be under Canadian control. For example, it was pointed out that chartered Canadian banks would not qualify as eligible Canadian corporations under the previous regulations. The indebtedness provision has, accordingly, been removed, but the Commission is specifically charged with satisfying itself that

Canadian control is not prejudiced through the holding of a large portion of the outstanding debt.

The Commission now is authorized to amend or renew licences that would have been eligible under the former Broadcasting Act at any time up to September 1, 1970, instead of September 1, 1969. It is understood that all holders of outstanding licences will be expected to comply with this direction by September 1, 1970. Finally, the new ruling also extends ineligibility to governments of foreign countries and their political subdivisions, including any of their agents. (See also *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 23, No. 40, dated October 2, 1968, P. 5.)

## QUARANTINE FOR FRENCH CATTLE

Canada and France have agreed to establish a quarantine station on the island of St. Pierre to facilitate the importation into Canada of cattle of French origin. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the French Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Monsieur Pierre Siraud, have signed an agreement under which the French Government will build, equip and maintain the quarantine station, and the Canadian Government will operate the veterinary services. Quarantine standards and conditions at the station will be identical to those applied at Canadian quarantine stations.

Imports of French cattle first took place in 1965, when Canada developed the present quarantine station at Grosse Ile, Quebec. The Grosse Ile station processes about 240 head annually. Both the Canadian and French Governments have been interested in increasing the movement of French cattle to Canada. The establishment on the island of St. Pierre of a new quarantine station, which meets Canadian health standards, will make possible imports of some 200 additional cattle each year.

The agreement will be effective for an initial period of five years and may be renewed thereafter.

## CREAMERY OUTPUT

Canadian production of butter and cheddar cheese increased last year, reports the federal Department of Agriculture.

The amount of butter, which declined steadily in the previous five years, is estimated at 333.8 million pounds for 1968 — an increase of 8.8 million over the output for 1967.

Production of cheddar cheese, which dropped in 1967 after rising steadily during the past few years, again reversed direction in 1968 and rose to an estimated 165.6 million pounds. This is an increase of about 6.5 million over that of the previous year.

---

For several months a year, Eskimo families move from their homes to better hunting and fishing areas.