

And further:

Your committee believes that the constitution of the corporation, ensuring a proper division between policy and management and a degree of flexibility and independence essential to the medium of broadcasting, together with ultimate parliamentary control, is well suited to the purpose for which it was created. Public service broadcasting in Canada must necessarily continue to be free from partisan control, and your committee is gratified to report that the activities of the CBC have been free from any nature of partisanship whatsoever. Your committee also wished to pay its tribute to the governors of the corporation for their vision, public spirit and efficient conduct of the trust imposed upon them by parliament.

That was after an examination of the corporation's policies, and I think I am right when I say that the regulations referred to by the manager of the broadcasting corporation, which govern in the matter, were in existence at the time this report was made. I think the hon. member for Greenwood, who interrupted me a moment ago, was a member of one of the committees of this house which investigated radio broadcasting.

Mr. MASSEY: The first committee.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: And I believe those regulations were in existence at that time.

Mr. MASSEY: I hesitate to interrupt the right hon. gentleman, but it is the interpretation of the regulations which is causing the difficulty at the present time. I do not wish to attempt to make a speech at the moment; I expect to speak on this matter later on; but if the Prime Minister will permit me, he will recall that at the time the committee sat two members of the committee withdrew because they were not permitted to call witnesses to go into just such a matter as has arisen at the present time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say that as far as the government is concerned we would welcome the appointment of a committee again this year, and every opportunity will be given hon. gentlemen opposite to name their members of that committee. Opportunity will be given the committee to call the general manager, the governors and any others connected with the corporation, and they may go very fully into all the rules and regulations that have been drawn up.

What I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, is that as far as radio broadcasting in Canada is concerned, when this parliament has put the whole business into the hands of a broadcasting corporation it seems to me that we as members of this house in our public capacity ought to be prepared to support the corporation in seeking to make rules which will

cause radio broadcasting throughout this country to show favours to none but equal privileges and opportunities to all. I believe it was in that spirit that the regulations at present in existence were laid down.

I hope I am making it clear that as far as censorship is concerned this government has no desire whatever to effect any censorship with respect to anything excepting what may be distinctly contrary to the public interest; but that so far as the broadcasting corporation is concerned such censorship as is exercised there is not the censorship of the government but of the corporation which parliament itself has established and to which has been given certain rights and powers.

Now I come to the question of the trade treaties, and here first of all, may I remind the house of the sequence of events, because it is only in the light of such that one can properly appreciate the significance and effects of any government policy. May I recall that from the time of confederation until the late administration went out of office there had been repeated efforts—not excluding those of the last administration—to bring about a reciprocal trade agreement with the United States, an agreement which, as between our two countries, would have mutuality of benefit and which would be reciprocally helpful. Every effort towards that end failed until the present administration came into office after the general election of 1935. The first task undertaken by this administration was that of bringing about an agreement with the United States if such was at all possible. We succeeded in getting that agreement, which was approved by this parliament and was to remain in force for three years, to continue thereafter subject to cancellation on six months notice. We have had three years of experience with that agreement, and I ask hon. members of this house: Are there those here who think this country would have been better off if an agreement had never been effected?

Some hon. MEMBERS: We certainly would.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hear very little in the way of rejection. I am certain the people of Canada generally whole-heartedly approve that agreement. They know there is not a single part of this country that has not benefited under the provisions of that trade agreement during the last few years. At the time this agreement was negotiated there had to be certain concessions on our part which affected certain interests here and there. Equally there had to be concessions on the part of the United States which