

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 429,

March 23, 1934.

The select special committee on Radio Broadcasting met at 11 o'clock, Mr. Morand presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I will pass around first a list of the correspondence that has been received by my office since last week. These letters are all available to the committee. I also have a list of the broadcasting stations and a chart in relation to their networks.

Now, we have Mr. Ashcroft of Toronto present this morning. He has presented a report, and he is here as a witness.

R. W. ASHCROFT, called.

By the Chairman:

Q. Mr. Ashcroft, who do you represent?—A. The Dominion Broadcasters' Association.

Q. You have submitted a brief or report?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you the report with you?—A. Yes.

Q. Is it the wish of the committee that Mr. Ashcroft should go over his report and then have questions asked afterwards?

Mr. GAGNON: Mr. Chairman, may I say I have read with interest the memorandum submitted by Mr. Ashcroft. May I at this time ask Mr. Ashcroft who are the members of the Dominion Broadcasters' Association?

The WITNESS: The members consist of twenty-five privately owned stations in Canada from coast to coast. No list has been made public so far.

Mr. GAGNON: Do I understand you have objections to the names of the members being known?

The WITNESS: Some of the members do not wish it to be known that they are members. They are afraid of reprisals on the part of the commission in case the commission is continued in power.

Mr. GAGNON: The facts submitted in your memorandum are not indicative of any fear.

The WITNESS: I shall be very glad to wire the stations that wish to remain under cover, and I am pretty sure I can get their permission to file a complete list of the stations with the committee.

Mr. AHEARN: Mr. Ashcroft speaks of reprisals.

Hon. Mr. CARDIN: We would like to know who Mr. Ashcroft is speaking for. Nobody should be afraid of expressing his own views in this country.

The WITNESS: Mr. Cardin, I shall be very indeed to obtain this and file it. I have not got it with me.

Mr. WRIGHT: Would the list include the larger stations, or are most of them smaller stations?

The WITNESS: Most of them are smaller stations. It includes some of the stations.