

new arrangement made with the United States networks and the Associated press and United press, was modelled deliberately on the Canadian system. They sent up to Canada for information. But we have a much better arrangement with Canadian Press than the American networks have been able to make with the American news services. Under the American agreement, no broadcast of news can be made on the air unless that news has previously appeared in the late editions of the evening newspapers. It is absolutely against the agreement to broadcast fresh news of any kind, or to handle it by commentary either.

The CHAIRMAN: That was what you wanted to say?

The WITNESS: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions you desire to ask Mr. Charlesworth with respect to the report? Mr. Ahearn had some questions last week.

Mr. AHEARN: Where are you going to start?

The CHAIRMAN: Start anywhere in the report; we have gone over it all.

Mr. AHEARN: I want to question Col. Steel more particularly about these new stations. I may also question Mr. Charlesworth on the subject. He says that it is the intention of the commission to take over these sixty odd privately owned broadcasting stations.

The WITNESS: I said it was the hope; I did not say it was the immediate intention. We hope some day to do it.

Mr. AHEARN: It is a pious hope?

The WITNESS: A pious hope; and I think it would be good for the country too.

Mr. WRIGHT: Does that apply to sixty or only the commercial and large stations?

The WITNESS: Well, of course, it is our intention to move forward gradually and to acquire suitable stations in districts where we think we can improve conditions; but we have no definite plan laid out, simply because we have not got the capital to do that. As I read the debates in parliament two years ago, I think the tone of the discussion was that it would be a gradual process. I still believe in the usefulness of small privately owned stations. I think it is provided for in the Act that the small stations rendering certain local services like Christmas appeals and church services, things not suitable to put on a network but interesting to their local community should continue.

Mr. GAGNON: It was the intention, as I understand it, to keep the community stations in the hands of private ownership?

The WITNESS: Yes, I suppose so!

*By Mr. Ahearn:*

Q. Do you mean that the Ottawa station CKCO would be a community station?—A. I do not know what is meant by a community station. That is a very loose definition. We call them privately owned stations.

Q. So your answer to Mr. Gagnon's question applied to privately owned stations. You mean privately owned stations?—A. All that I can say is that according to the present outlook we cannot acquire many privately owned stations within the coming year. We cannot acquire on a large scale unless a policy is adopted of voting us money for capital expenditure, perhaps with a bond issue to cover it. I have not heard of any such thing.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Under the present Act, Mr. Charlesworth, is it not true that before any stations can be taken over, the arrangement has to be endorsed by the Governor-in-Council?—A. The Governor-in-Council.