

My friend the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) spoke about Sunday radio programs. I think that we in Canada should do what we can to see to it that the Sabbath Day is observed as it should be observed, and that broadcasters, especially those under the control of parliament, present Sunday programs that are elevating and clean and as free as possible from commercialism. Also, if there is going to be the broadcasting of opinions that are not always quite what we would expect from citizens of Canada, let them be broadcast on some other day than the Sabbath, for that is a day when many people, who have more time to listen than during the busy week, would prefer to have material presented on a high plane.

One thing that strikes me about the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and other publicly-owned companies in this country—the Canadian National Railways, for instance—is that they are not subject to the stresses and tests of private business. If a man is president of a private company he must succeed; that is, he must see to it that his company makes money, or he will be removed from office. The test of his efficiency is whether the success of the company is according to the rules of business. But the same test does not seem to be applied to a person at the head of a government or publicly-owned corporation. If he has a deficit, he comes to the government or to parliament to get some money, and nobody ever suggests that he may be inefficient. It seems to me that we need to be alert to see to it that we do not coast along and take it for granted that the people's money should be used to bolster up publicly-owned organizations whenever they have a deficit.

I was much interested last week in a bill before the Transport Committee to amend the Toronto Harbour Commissioners Act. The oil companies thought that the commissioners were seeking unnecessary authority in order to tax them, and the Harbour Commissioners said, "But we are a public body, dealing with interests of the public". Well, on the other side there are the private industries of this country, and they are the ones that pay the taxes to keep the government and these government organizations going. It has been said that the government is the biggest partner in every business of the country, for at least 55 per cent of the profits of a successful corporation are paid out in taxes. So if private industry did not succeed we would not have millions of dollars to give to the Broadcasting Corporation and other such concerns. Perhaps we need to

reconstruct our thinking a little on the subject of profits made by private concerns. It is from those profits that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, for instance, is maintained. So when it again needs millions of dollars to carry on its operations, I think we should make sure that it is properly run and efficiently managed.

The leader of the opposition very truly says that this organization should not be a law unto itself. Well, some of the people in government companies try to be a law unto themselves, at least as far as possible. I am not suggesting that we should return to the practice of the old days when a man's politics had a good deal to do with whether or not he could get an important job with the government, in return for which he was expected to be loyal and grateful. But no one should consider himself above parliament. I recall a time in the past when there was considerable concern about whether the then president of the Canadian National Railways was not as powerful as the then government of the country. We want to guard against anything like that. It is a good thing to have views expressed on a matter of this kind, for they give us a chance to notify important officials that they should never forget they are public servants. We should make it clear that while we wish to preserve their dignity and independence, their continuation in office will depend upon their efficiency and virtue, and that unless they show that they possess these qualities, they may find it difficult in future to continue in office and to come to parliament for assistance.

Hon. George H. Barbour: Honourable senators, I differ with the opinion of the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) that the radio licence fee should be \$10 a year.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Ten dollars or nothing.

Hon. Mr. Barbour: I do not agree with that. To my mind the people who are getting the most important service from the C.B.C. are the fishermen who depend upon radio for warnings of coming storms. I believe that radio has been a means of saving many lives in this way. Another important class of people served by radio are those living in remote parts of the country, in rural areas without electricity. These people, like the fishermen at sea, have to use battery radios, and the batteries will cost a man \$15 or \$16 or more every year. These people look to the radio not only for weather reports and storm warnings, but for entertainment which is not available to them from any other source; and I certainly would oppose any increase in the licence fee charged to them.