

Now, gentlemen, as you all understand, it was decided that we should have Mr. George McCullagh, Editor of the *Globe and Mail* of Toronto, here to-day. Mr. McCullagh is here, and I extend to him on behalf of the committee a very hearty welcome. Mr. McCullagh has a statement in writing and he would like to have the privilege of reading that statement. May I ask members of the committee to permit him to read the statement and after he has completed his presentation if any members of the committee wish to ask questions an opportunity will be afforded them, and I imagine they will be welcomed by Mr. McCullagh.

Mr. McCullagh, will you proceed.

GEORGE McCULLAGH, Publisher, "The *Globe and Mail*," 140 King street west, Toronto, called.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I wish to express my thanks for the opportunity of appearing before you. If I may have the privilege, I would like to review the incidents leading up to the refusal by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to allow me to broadcast over a network of stations, either publicly owned or privately owned. In reviewing these incidents, I wish to impress upon you that it is not my desire to obtain any redress from the commission for actions they have taken, and I would ask you to divorce your minds completely from me as an individual, with the view that we can discuss impartially the principle involved, which to my mind, far transcends in importance anything that affects me as an individual.

I have turned up the purpose for which this committee was appointed and I find that on February 10th your special committee on radio broadcasting was appointed with among others, the following powers: To review the policies and aims of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and its regulations, revenues, expenditures and development, and power was given to you to send for persons and papers and records for that purpose.

My first association with broadcasting came in September, 1937 when I engaged a network of private stations to give a broadcast previous to the election in Ontario of October 6 the same year. I reserved this network some three weeks ahead of time, and approximately a week before I was to go on the air I received a letter from the general manager of the corporation, Mr. Murray, cancelling my network on privately owned stations. At that time I immediately got in touch with Mr. Murray, also the chairman, Mr. Brockington. Mr. Brockington took the view that he had no idea that I had already engaged the stations, that there was no basis for refusing me the right to speak and that I should be reinstated—which I was. I ask you to pay particular attention to that now, in view of the action of the corporation recently which denied me the same privilege, and I would ask you members of the committee to consider what has taken place in the interim of fifteen months to change Mr. Brockington's expressed views to me at that time.

In regard to the recent action which has been the subject of discussion in this committee, I would like to say that I made a statement at that time that it was an invasion of the rights of the individual, and in my opinion, a threat at one of the fundamental principles of our democratic life—that of freedom of speech. I have followed closely the evidence given before this committee by the chairman, and I would like to say now that he has failed to change the opinion which I expressed at the time.

It is all very well to suggest that there have been inconsistencies. I find no inconsistency—excepting the one which refused me the right which had been granted to others and also granted to me previously. You gentlemen are all familiar with the correspondence concerning my application for five broadcasts

[Mr. George McCullagh.]