

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No, he is not responsible to us.

Mr. GRAYDON: Should he not be?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: That is arguable.

Mr. GRAYDON: After all, the policy of this country in so far as outside places are concerned rests with the Department of External Affairs. Why should officials of the C.B.C.I.S., whether seconded or not, be the ones left with the responsibility for that? When you speak about the execution of policy it would seem to me that just having somebody that I have never heard of before, although he might be a very important person in Montreal, discussing this thing with Jean Désy who is not now with the external affairs department—it seems to me to be a pretty loose way of handling something of tremendous value.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: That is the way it is handled in other countries like the United Kingdom and the United States where broadcasts of this kind are on a more extensive scale. The foreign office in London do not control the B.B.C. shortwave service but they work very closely with it as we do with the C.B.C.I.S. It may be that the committee in considering this matter will decide there should be some other method. We have found that from our point of view this arrangement works pretty well. For instance, every month or so I get a great stack of texts of broadcasts to countries behind the iron curtain (the only ones you are concerned with in this connection) and I try to see the line being followed and to satisfy myself it is the right line.

Mr. GRAYDON: Does the cabinet ever give consideration in a pretty general way to this matter or is it all just by yourself?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: We do not discuss C.B.C.I.S. matters in cabinet—especially when the C.B.C. ask for more money.

Mr. MACINNIS: What happens when you do not see eye to eye with these broadcasts?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I would discuss with Mr. Désy the line, or trend and tone and slant; I would not do that of course on my own. We have men in our divisions who have been in Warsaw, Prague and Moscow and who have some knowledge of the people in these countries, and they are in a position to follow these broadcasts very carefully. The men the C.B.C.I.S. have in Montreal act as a channel for the expression of these views.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I ask you to answer the question I asked you. What do you say in a general way to these people behind the iron curtain? What do we hold out to them? Is it containment, liberation, or what is it?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No, we try to give them a picture of our free way of life and to emphasize its superiority over the life of the regime under which they have to live. We also, on occasion, try to show up the absurdity and falsehood of the things which they are getting in their newspapers, in their magazines and on their broadcasts. We have a steady stream of information coming back to us from these countries and we give them convincing evidence of the falsehood and absurdity of some of the things they are being told. But, we do not normally appeal directly to their desire to free themselves because that would not be doing them a favour at this stage. I would like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that it might be of interest to members of the committee if you had a written report on this matter from which a discussion could proceed. We would be glad to give you such a report.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: On that very subject, Mr. Chairman, is there a paramount desire in these countries to eventually be what we might term democratized? Take the U.S. government which today is spending quite a number of millions of dollars in trying to bring democracy to the Micronesian Islands.