

Apparently some people believe that we should not have paid off our indebtedness to the government so quickly. I can assure you that we would much rather have kept the money for our own use; but there is a war to be won and we were told that if we would clear our debt as quickly as possible it would help. I hardly think any true Canadian can hold against us the fact that we did our very best to help our government.

It has been suggested that we should be taxed. We are in the very happy position of opposing taxation in the name of the Canadian public rather than for the benefit of those connected with the C.B.C. Whatever amount we might have to pay in taxes would simply mean that we had that much less money to provide service. What would it mean for parliament to impose a licence fee on all listeners only to take back part of it for general use in government administration? This would be the most striking example of indirect taxation and it would unquestionably be money obtained under false pretense. In other words, the listeners would be taxed \$2.50 to sustain a national radio service and then part of this amount would be used to build grain elevators or other buildings somewhere in Canada.

I have only tried to deal here with the general ground covered by Mr. Carson.

Radio broadcasting is here to stay and it will continue to be used in part for advertising purposes. Many papers understand the situation and have the privilege of running a broadcasting station in parallel with their papers. We claim that we are not overdoing it and we know that we are restricting our commercial activities to the very minimum required for us to discharge our duty towards the listening public.

If you wish to know more about this question, our Commercial Manager, Mr. E. A. Weir, is here this morning and he has extremely interesting figures and facts which we would like you very much to know about. I hope you will hear him.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the wish of the committee to ask any questions or discuss that statement?

By Mr. Coldwell:

Q. I should like to ask a few questions. I am sorry I was not here when Mr. Carson appeared before the committee or I would have asked him the same questions which I will now ask the general manager. Is Mr. Carson a member of the firm of Taylor, Pierce and Carson?—A. No, he is a periodical publisher.

Q. Then, I have not seen the gentleman. I thought perhaps he was connected with that radio broadcasting group, but since the matter of periodicals and newspapers has been raised by Mr. Carson it seems to me that this committee should consider the whole situation regarding the ownership of radio stations by newspapers in this country. There are several groups who own both newspapers and quite a number of radio stations. I heard over the air last night or this morning that Mr. Roy Thompson of Kirkland Lake has bought four newspapers in this province, and I understand he controls several radio stations. Do you happen to know how many he controls, Dr. Frigon?—A. There has been a change in ownership lately. He has parted from partnership with his associate, Mr. Cook. I do not know really where he is standing at the present time, but he owns and operates a number of radio stations.

Q. Then, you have the Armadale corporation, the people who own the *Manitoba Free Press*, the *Regina Leader Post*, *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, *Prairie Farmer*, *Saskatchewan Farmer*, and they own a station in Winnipeg, and two in Regina. Are they interested in the Kenora station?—A. I think they own one in Edmonton.

Q. Where?—A. Edmonton.