

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 429,
March 21, 1934.

The select special committee on Radio Broadcasting met at 3.30 o'clock, Mr. Morand presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: I have just passed around a list of letters that are now available in the file for anyone who wishes to peruse them. I think that was the understanding at the last meeting. It was understood that we keep those letters on file, and the committee could see them at any time it wished.

At the last meeting Mr. Charlesworth and Colonel Steel went over the report, and it was understood at that time they would be back to-day, and the committee given the opportunity to ask further questions in regard to it.

Mr. BEYNON: Mr. Chairman, as you know, the banking committee has been sitting very regularly since our last meeting, together with many other matters, and I was wondering if it would be suitable or convenient to the committee to go over this Gladstone Murray report.

The CHAIRMAN: Before?

Mr. BEYNON: Yes. Probably Mr. Charlesworth would go over it with us, and tell us as to how far they have implemented the suggestions.

HECTOR CHARLESWORTH, called.

I have not seen or looked at the report for six months or so. I think there were a dozen copies sent down.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we can go on with what was suggested last time, and then at some future time we can go over this report. Mr. Charlesworth will always be available, and some of the other members will be better prepared then.

The WITNESS: Before we proceed, Mr. Chairman, I would like to correct a muddled statement that I made at the last meeting with regard to the news broadcast. Is that permissible?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

The WITNESS: When I read my own evidence with regard to what I said about 80 per cent of the people of Canada I saw that I had not made myself clear at all. What I meant was that 80 per cent of the people of Canada did not see the evening papers, to which Mr. Ahearn was alluding, until after the broadcast was over. I had in mind particularly a very important service the Ottawa papers render up the Ottawa valley and northern Ontario, where their papers get in far ahead of any other city, but the people in those sections do not see the Ottawa evening papers to which Mr. Ahearn alluded until the next day. I think it may be a slight exaggeration, but the newspapermen generally admit that the majority of the people do not see the evening papers before our broadcasts go out. In justice to the daily papers, it would be a gross exaggeration for me to say that 80 per cent of the people do not see newspapers at all. I did not intend to say that, but apparently I did.

Mr. GAGNON: With respect to that service, may I ask if the commission has been highly praised by the American press with respect to the initiative you have taken in that regard?

The WITNESS: Yes, especially praised by the papers of William Randolph Hearst, who publishes very powerful and very widely circulated newspapers. The