

sion Committee came to the conclusion that the functions were judicial. The honourable senator should keep in mind that medical and other scientific questions are frequently under review in our courts, and the judge has to decide between conflicting expert views on many subjects. Nevertheless his function is judicial.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: Undoubtedly that is the case in the civil courts.

RADIO BROADCASTING BILL

SECOND READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the second reading of Bill 99, an Act to amend the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act, 1932.

He said: Honourable members, this Bill is brief, differing in this respect from many others that have come before us. I have not been favoured with any analysis of the principles of the Bill, nor any data constituting its *raison d'être*. On the contrary, three issues of Hansard of the House of Commons, containing ninety-five pages of debate, have been sent to me in the belief, no doubt, that I had plenty of time to digest this awful mass. However, a study of the Bill and of some of the debate enables me to make a statement with regard to this measure.

Section 1 merely provides for the removal of the technical and professional officers of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission from under the operation of the Civil Service Act and makes them appointable by the Commission, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. Clerks and all other remaining employees continue to be under the authority of the Civil Service Commission. This, it seems to me, is in accord with the practice which has developed and grown since the Civil Service Act was passed, of leaving under the authority of the Civil Service Commission only such appointments as would naturally become the prey of the patronage system.

Paragraph b of section 2 of the Bill makes the acquirement of private radio stations by the Radio Commission, either by lease or by purchase, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. Under the previous law this was subject to the approval of Parliament. Of course Parliament has to approve in any event, for it has to vote the money; but in the actual working of the law the Governor in Council must approve, so that there may be continuity of operation. Similar remarks apply to paragraph c of this section, which refers to the construction of new radio stations.

Section 3 of the Bill provides:

The Commission may expend for the purposes of this Act the moneys appropriated by Parliament for such purposes, together with such sums of money as may be received by the Commission from any business carried on by it under this Act.

From a reading of this section by itself one might suppose it to be contemplated that the Commission would use not only the receipts from its own operations, but also supplementary moneys voted by Parliament. I have made special inquiries and find that this is not what is contemplated; nor is it provided for by the Bill as a whole. On the contrary, the Commission may spend only what moneys it receives from its operations under the Act. Over and above the receipts there is no vote out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, nor is there provision for the payment of any moneys. Subsection 2 of this section makes clear what I have just explained.

Subsection 3 of section 3 provides:

The Commission shall present to the Minister of Finance annually an estimate of the expenditure proposed to be made by it during the fiscal year, and the Minister of Finance shall from time to time pay into a chartered bank to the credit of the Commission moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Commission.

It appears that the receipts of the Commission from certain sources go into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and are revoted by Parliament. The new feature of this subsection is the requirement that the Commission shall present to the Minister of Finance an estimate of the expenditure proposed to be made by it.

The last clause of the Bill provides:

This Act shall expire on the thirtieth day of April, 1934.

I have not sufficient information to enable me to tell the House why such an early mortality is fixed for this measure. I did not reach this point in reading the large mass of matter which was thrown at me; but I do not think the House will defeat or resist the Bill because it deems the death too early.

Right Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM: Honourable members, life insurance companies, when the risk is great, issue policies for only a very short period. The Government may have had the same principle in mind with regard to this measure. I will not say anything about the Radio Commission or its work, but what I have said before I will reiterate—that I do not think it fair to the people of this country at this time that the money which they