

TOP SECRET

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(f) Non-Canadian ownership.

The regulations under the Radio Act provided that licences could be issued only to British subjects or companies incorporated under Canadian or provincial law or the law of any country of the Commonwealth. Apart from this there was no provision regarding ownership of control of or interest in broadcasting stations.

(g) Financial returns of stations

These were now made available to the Department of Transport but they were not available to the Board of Governors of the C.B.C. or the public. It was a question whether it would not be desirable in the public interest for them to be made available to the Board of Governors for its work.

An explanatory memorandum had been circulated.

(C.B.C. memorandum, Mar. 18, 1953- Cab. Doc. 83-53).

9. In the course of discussion the following points were made:

(a) As to duplication:

(i) while it would not be possible to avoid fringe duplication in the coverage of areas by television stations, technical means should be used to avoid strong overlapping, particularly of areas covered by C.B.C. stations;

(ii) the purpose of avoiding or reducing overlapping was to provide conditions that would make it possible for stations to be developed and maintained successfully but, beyond that, it was not desirable to foster conditions of monopoly;

(iii) the government should not guarantee a monopoly in any particular area to a private television station;

(b) As to the establishment of C.B.C. stations:

(i) if any additional areas were to be excluded from licences for private stations, it would be necessary to undertake to establish C.B.C. stations in them in the immediate future, which would impose a serious additional burden on the C.B.C. and probably delay service;

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RG 2, A5a,  
Vol. 2652

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