

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

June 4, 1946.

The Special Committee on Radio Broadcasting met this day at 10.30 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Mr. R. Maybank, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, in opening this meeting I should tell you what occurred at the meeting of the steering committee which was appointed. It was agreed at the last meeting there should be a steering committee. The personnel were not named, but it was left to me to appoint the committee on suggestions from the various parties. The steering committee was chosen consisting of Messrs. Knight, Hansell, Fleming, McCulloch, Beaudoin, Mullins and myself. We met, and the suggestion of the steering committee which comes to this committee is that, as well as we can see at this moment, the best way to proceed would be to have statements which would be a survey of the last couple of years. The statements would be made by the minister and officers of the corporation. It seemed probable to the steering committee that various interested parties would desire to come before this committee to make representations of one kind and another, and it might be that the right time to have them do so would be after statements had been made such as I have suggested. On the other hand, we might feel that it would be better to have the policy of the corporation stated prior to these delegations but, at any rate, it seemed to the steering committee that first of all we should have the survey of the past, secondly, the delegations, and thirdly a statement of policy. However, as to those latter two it might be desirable to interchange them.

I think the only other suggestion which the steering committee desires to make is that we meet regularly at 10.30 on Tuesdays subject, of course, to increasing that as we may see fit. I believe those are the only concrete recommendations that the subcommittee has to make at this time. I did not write it out as a report. I think that becomes a matter of record now by my having stated it to you. Are you agreed as to those suggestions? (Agreed).

There is one other matter that the clerk has drawn to my attention. Mr. Smith and others asked for certain papers at the last meeting. It was said that the clerk would do all he could to get those papers which were mentioned. As I recall it, what you wanted, Mr. Smith, were papers going back to about 1924, reports and that sort of thing. The situation is this with reference to such supplies. The joint distribution office has not any extra copies of minutes going back as far as that. Neither has the King's Printer. There is a set of minutes of proceedings of all committees kept in the library for reference, and it may be possible to obtain copies of the votes and proceedings of the dates on which the final reports were presented. It has not been possible yet, and it seems improbable that there will be a sufficient number of copies of each one of the reports desired, but with respect to the Canadian Broadcasting Act, 1936, regulations and by-laws of the C.B.C., and the annual reports they are available for distribution and will be distributed whenever desired. As to a good deal of the information for full distribution to the committee it is not possible to get it.

Mr. SMITH: If we cannot get it we cannot get it, but let us have what you have got.

The CHAIRMAN: They will be distributed as we go along. Following the idea of commencing this meeting in the manner indicated a few minutes ago I think it would be appropriate to call on the Hon. Mr. McCann to give the opening statement. If that is agreeable I will do so now.