

Mr. Ross: (*Hamilton East*): I do not know whether it is the Bloc Populaire or Communism which you are hitting at.

Mr. HACKETT: I am not hitting at either. I am trying to get at the policy of the board.

*By Mr. Hackett:*

Q. Dr. Frigon said that even if the agency to which I was referring a few minutes ago was denied the opportunity of expressing its views over the CBC it still had access to the private stations. Taking that as a fact is it not the policy of the CBC to gradually take over the private stations?—A. It is not the policy of the CBC.

Q. Well, in effect, the policy of the CBC is curtailing the usefulness of the private stations in that they have not privileges of hitching up with other stations which are at all comparable to those of the CBC. Is that not a fact?—A. I would not agree with that. We work very specifically under the Act, and particularly under the recommendations of the 1936 committee on whose recommendations the 1936 Act was largely written. We have been given the control of all networks. We have allowed increasing privileges, privileges which were never envisaged at that time, to private stations to have subsidiary hookups. I do not think there was ever the shadow of an intention that one particular group of private people, or one particular interest, would be allowed to have the terrific power of controlling a whole national network in Canada. I would not think we have moved to constrict private stations. I think the whole development over the years has been to give them a good deal more freedom, more latitude, more privileges than was originally envisaged.

Q. Well, the Toronto incident would seem to indicate—

Mr. BERTRAND: What is the Toronto incident?

Mr. HACKETT: I am talking of the station operated by Mr. Sedgwick.

Mr. HANSELL: CFRB.

*By Mr. Hackett:*

Q. —would seem to indicate that the CBC is expropriating or taking over stations that have been developed—A. Mr. Hackett, I should like to make it very clear—I tried to the other day, and I think it is very clear—under the law and the regulations on the subject we are not expropriating station CFRB; we are not taking it over. What is being done is the suggestion of changing its wave length so that a wave length got originally for the national system is assigned to that national system. We have the right, with approval, to take over CFRB. We are not doing that because it is the policy of the board that CFRB continue to operate. We have expressed our wish that they lose as little coverage as possible. As I say, it is the policy of this board although it would be well justified under the recommendations of parliamentary committees in taking over that station or asking that its licence be cancelled. We have on the contrary done nothing of the sort. Our policy is to encourage CFRB to operate so it will be able to do a good business. It will still be, as I pointed out on Friday—and I think you were absent—the most privileged radio station certainly in eastern Canada. It will have double the power of any other station in eastern Canada. It will have the widest coverage of any private station in eastern Canada, and that in an area of the greatest concentration of English language population in Canada.

Q. But in the result it is curtailed in its coverage?—A. It may lose a little coverage or some coverage which it now has, but since 1941 it has been enjoying very special privileges having the highest and best class of wave length made available to it.