

of vested interests would arise and additional difficulties would confront parliament and the country. I trust the minister will be able to assure the committee that no further licences will be granted until this question is settled.

Mr. CARDIN: I regret that the special committee has not had the opportunity of dealing with the report.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): They had the opportunity.

Mr. CARDIN: In view of the agitation which arose all over the country, and the protests which were received by the department, it was thought that the proper course to follow would be to submit the report to a special committee. Shortly after the matter was placed before the committee it was decided that in view of the coming elections it would not be possible in the short time remaining at our disposal to deal with it in a satisfactory way. I agree that a special committee should be appointed to consider all the details of this very complex problem, and before which all interested parties would have an opportunity of expressing their views. I cannot meet the request that in the meantime no further licences be granted, because it must be understood that at least one year will elapse before parliament will be in a position to deal with the problem. Would it be fair to prevent certain stations from adding to their power?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Absolutely.

Mr. CARDIN: I do not think it would be fair to prevent other companies obtaining new licences. However, should new licences be granted it will be upon the distinct understanding that no claim will lie against the government should it be decided to nationalize radio broadcasting.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Will the minister undertake to have a clause included in the agreement under which any licence may be granted to prevent private interests from making any claim upon the administration, the government, this parliament or the people, in the event of the government taking over radio broadcasting?

Mr. CARDIN: I have no hesitation in replying that that condition will be imposed.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): And any interests applying for licences from now on will do so at their own risk?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That is understood?

[Mr. E. J. Garland.]

Mr. CARDIN: That is understood.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): And under no circumstances will any vested rights be created?

Mr. CARDIN: That is understood.

Mr. GARDINER: Have any new licences been granted since the radio report was presented?

Mr. CARDIN: No.

Mr. MANION: Has the fact that there are two outstanding Liberal papers in Canada, one in Ontario and the other in Quebec, that have radio broadcasting stations, anything to do with the fact that there has been no progress made with the committee?

Mr. CARDIN: Not at all.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am glad the hon. member for Fort William raised that question again. I do not want the words of the minister to go out as implying that there was any agreement, there was none that I know of or have ever heard of, between any of the parties in this house to the effect that the work of this committee should be postponed. No such agreement was ever made. There may have been an understanding to try to expedite the business of the house, but I do not think the minister meant to say there was an agreement not to allow the committee to sit.

Mr. CARDIN: I did not say that.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am still at a loss to know why it did not sit. It was appointed either just before or just after Easter and we had ample time to have had meetings, but for some reason the committee was suppressed. I do not want to accuse the minister of deliberately desiring to suppress the committee, but in view of the strange circumstances that surround the whole handling of this question by the government this year, I felt I was justified in making the request I made a minute or two ago of the minister.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: There is a matter along another line altogether to which I should like to call the minister's attention. A memorandum was submitted by the Vancouver Labour Council, to the Vancouver Board of Harbour Commissioners, and by the All-Canadian Congress of Labour to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, with respect to waterfront accidents at Vancouver. A request has been made that the government should create and establish a government safety official or