

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

cussed, and, at some point during the debate, the hon. member who was then minister of national revenue (Mr. McCann) said this to the hon. member for Eglinton,—and I am quoting *Hansard* of 1953-54, volume V, page 5520:

You would want the minority to rule.

And the hon. representative for Eglinton, who is now Minister of Finance replied:

No, I have never advocated that the minority should rule. That is one reason I have said repeatedly that this government does not have any right to rule in the way it does because it does not represent a majority of the Canadian people. It was elected with 48 per cent of the votes of the Canadian people.

What are we to think of a man like the present Minister of Finance who used those words in 1954, and who today agrees to be part of a minority government which in the last election secured but about 41 per cent of the votes, while the Liberal party got about 45 per cent. And it is this man who is now Minister of Finance and who, in introducing changes in our tax structure, resorts to unusual means, to say the least.

After having heard, during the first two months of this session, the ministers contradict themselves, I am not surprised to see the hon. Minister of Finance contradicting himself before the whole nation in accepting a post in a minority cabinet.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member should present a specific complaint. He is now referring to policy in general. He should express a specific complaint.

Mr. Rouleau: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a representative of the constituency of Dollard, I have always abided by the rules of the house, and I shall limit my remarks to a specific complaint. I should like to refer particularly to the policy of the C.B.C. Besides, I was about to return to the subject, but I could not help coming back on a matter which is dear to me, since it is of interest to the whole Canadian people.

To come back to the matter I just mentioned, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity, in the last parliament to deliver in the house, on January 28, 1955, a speech about the policy of the C.B.C.

I said then:

During the parliamentary recess I was often asked another question with regard to restrictions imposed by the board of governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on privately-owned radio and television stations. Most of my fellow citizens whom I have met, not only in Dollard riding but also in Montreal and elsewhere in Canada, are opposed to the fact that this organization which competes directly with private enterprise should be at the same time the organization that controls and grants permits to private stations.

We know that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation through its radio and television networks renders a great service to our country, but we would prefer that it be treated on an equal footing, or nearly so, with stations belonging to private enterprise. Such a practice would be more consistent with the democratic principles of Liberalism, and furthermore it would comply with the resolutions passed by the advisory council of the national Liberal federation at its meeting held in Ottawa on the 27th and 28th of October, 1952, and also by the federation of young Liberals of Canada during their bi-annual convention held in May, 1954.

As I was speaking, the Conservatives who at that time were sitting on this side of the house loudly applauded the former president of the young Liberals federation of Canada. I wonder, now that they are sitting on the other side of the house if, having heard the answers given by the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan) to the questions I put to him on the C.B.C., they would be as ready to applaud the statements I am making today.

Mr. Speaker, I still am of the opinion the government should establish an agency to control broadcasting in all its forms in Canada, whether public or private. This point of view is by all means consonant with the views expressed on many occasions by the hon. member for Eglinton.

I do not wish to criticize the C.B.C. board of governors which has done an excellent job as far as the government radio service is concerned. But I am opposed to the principle of the thing and I have voiced my opposition on several occasions in this house. I have no use for a crown corporation monopoly on private enterprise. At this time we have C.B.C. television in Montreal, but the metropolis of Canada, a city like Montreal, could also have one or two private stations to compete with the C.B.C. This would provide an opportunity for the development of our own Canadian talent. At this stage Mr. Speaker, and in passing, I would like to point out that certain newspapers of Montreal and of the province of Quebec have claimed that there is discrimination within the C.B.C. The government might establish a commission of inquiry to determine the truth of the criticisms made by the newspapers of the city of Montreal and of the province. If such criticisms are found to be justified, it might then be advisable to remedy the situation and if they are not justified, the people will then know what to think of them and this would be in the greatest interest of the C.B.C.

As I said a while ago, the present Minister of Finance often requested the creation of the agency I just mentioned and I earnestly hope that the government will show its good faith in creating this agency. If it does not, the Liberal party, under whose banner I have