

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I was under the impression that Canada had a national, non-political radio system, but now I find that practically all these appointments are political. How does the minister reconcile that fact with the former conception we all had? Are these 140 supervisors all Tories, or are some of them Liberals and some C.C.F.'ers?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I do not know; all that concerns me is whether the man is reliable. These collections do not come under the radio commission; they are still under the Department of Marine.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: From what I have heard, and I can hear fairly well, it appears to me that they are one hundred per cent political appointments. I think that is scandalous in a service such as this, and my hon. friend said they were naturally supporters of the government. Why?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I did not say that. I think my hon. friend heard that from someone else; I do not think the minister made that statement. If the man is reliable the department is satisfied.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Would they be recommended by the patronage committees in the various constituencies?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I do not know. Sometimes when we need information on a man naturally we go to the member or the defeated candidate. There is nothing new in that; that was done during the Liberal regime. When you needed some information you went to the Liberal member or the defeated Liberal candidate.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: What are the names of the supervisors in the constituency of Melville?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I am sorry, but I have already stated to the committee that I have not with me the names of the supervisors.

Mr. HOWARD: May I suggest to the minister that when reconsidering his plan of operation for the collection of licence fees next year he look into the suggestion made by the hon. member for North Bruce. To me it appears to be a very sensible one. May I say that I do not particularly object to the political appointment made in my own constituency; I think that was a perfectly natural consequence. I do object very strongly to the system, however. No one in a city like Sherbrooke knows where radios are as well as the mail carrier, who knows what is going on in every house throughout his route.

There is no person who could collect the licence fees as well as the mail carrier. According to the figures given by the minister, 2½ per cent was paid to the post office and 20 per cent to the collectors. In times like these, when we need every dollar of additional revenue and when we are facing real financial difficulties, this system is altogether wrong; we have no right to pay 20 per cent when we can make the collections for 2½ per cent. I will go further; I think there will be greater efficiency if the collecting is done by the Post Office Department, which also needs additional revenue. Then, if you could get around the difficulty of paying a man who already receives a salary from the government, you might give the mail carrier a small commission on his collections, and you would be sure to have a licence issued for every set.

So far as Sherbrooke is concerned there was a supervisor appointed, but with that I have no concern at all. Later the supervisor selected the men to work under him, but suddenly someone discovered that my constituency is seventy-five per cent French Canadian but that all the collectors were English speaking. As a result additional French speaking collectors had to be appointed. So I say I do not think this is the proper way to handle this proposition. I would suggest that next year the minister either adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for North Bruce or have these collections made by the Post Office Department at a commission of 2½ per cent.

Mr. DURANLEAU: I have only a word to say to my hon. friend from Sherbrooke. I agree with him when he says the Post Office Department should issue the licences to those who wish to go to the post office, but what are we to do with those who will not do so? I have positive proof that this year we issued over 100,000 licences which otherwise would not have been issued, and for each of those licences we are receiving \$1.60. Some radio owners do not go to the post office, the bank or the dealer, so we had to find some way of ascertaining who had paid and who had not paid. I am quite frank to say to this committee that this was an experiment to see if we could have a licence issued for each receiving set, but I am glad to receive suggestions from hon. members opposite because at present we are considering what system we shall adopt next year. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. member for North Bruce that a tax should be imposed on radio tubes, I am told that in hotel rooms where there are radios there are no tubes used.