

My hon. friend made reference, in speaking of defence, to the paragraph in the speech from the throne which refers to the intention of this government to appoint a defence purchasing board, and expressed the hope that it would not be a political board. May I say to my hon. friend I think that when the government's legislation is brought down he will have every reason to feel that in this matter, as in all others, the government has sought to do that which will commend itself to the people of this country at large; and that the board which will be appointed will be a board which will command the respect and confidence of hon. members of this house. I agree with my hon. friend when he says that he believes there is no right thinking person in Canada who wishes to see unwarranted profits made out of anything that has to do with war. The whole question as to what is best in the matter of the manufacture of war materials, munitions and other implements of war, whether it is better to have this done under government ownership, or private ownership properly controlled, is one which will come up for full discussion and debate in this house this session. I shall not go into that question now, but I wish to say immediately that for myself, and I speak as well for every member of this administration, and I think I may say for every hon. member in this house, we are determined to see that, where it is necessary for the country to engage in the manufacture of war material, matters are so safeguarded that their manufacture cannot be made a basis for profiteering.

I come now to the next part of the speech, which has to do with the trade treaties. But I recall that before my hon. friend came to that part he brought in a matter which rather surprised me, because it was touched on only a few minutes before the debate opened, one which it seemed to me he sought to stress unduly, namely the question of the refusal of an application made within the last few days to the radio broadcasting corporation by the publisher of one of our Canadian papers to be allowed to use the corporation's network for the purpose of delivering addresses setting forth his personal opinions on some public matters. Now I have already said that as far as that application is concerned the government knew nothing whatever of it. No member of the government had any knowledge that such an application was being made; no member of the government had even heard anything about the application having been refused until he saw mention of it in the press; although in the press, which apparently is not to be censored in any way, the state-

ment was made quite emphatically that the government was responsible for the refusal of that particular application.

My hon. friend says, What we ought to have in this house is a committee dealing with radio. I think it would be a kindness to my hon. friend to say at once that there are a number of things that he has missed in the three years he has been out of the house recently. His address to-night gave evidence of that repeatedly, and this is one instance. This house has had for a couple of years past a standing committee on radio broadcasting.

Mr. MANION: I knew that all the time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend knew that all the time and yet asked for a committee I am somewhat surprised.

Mr. MANION: May I ask my right hon. friend as a matter of information whether that committee is a standing committee that continues this year without further appointment?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There has been a committee for the last two sessions, a select standing committee. A motion was passed:

That a select committee be appointed on radio broadcasting to consider the annual report of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and to review the policies of the corporation with special reference to revenues, expenditures and development, with all the powers vested in the standing committees under standing orders and the resolution passed by this house on the 7th February, 1938.

Mr. MANION: But I am afraid that does not answer my question. Is that committee automatically appointed for this year also?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No; it will require the appointment of another committee.

Mr. MANION: That is exactly what I was saying.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The inference I drew, and which I think hon. members of the house will have drawn, from my hon. friend's remark was that there was need of such a committee.

Mr. MANION: This session.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Oh, at previous sessions, all the time.

Mr. MANION: No, I knew there was a committee; I read the press.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then if my hon. friend knew, he evidently forgot some things. The committee reported, and its report was accepted unanimously by this house. One feature was approval of the policies of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, because it was into those very matters that the committee was obliged to look. As I said this