

EVIDENCE

November 22, 1951

A Davidson Dunton, Chairman, Board of Governors, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, called:

The CHAIRMAN: C.B.C. Wednesday night: Music and drama:

Mr. KNIGHT: I would like to say something about that—

Hon. MEMBERS: Louder, please.

Mr. KNIGHT: I would like to comment on the excellence of that particular program. It meets a great need. I hope there will be more of it.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean Talks: The next heading is: News.

Mr. FULTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a comment I would like to make on news. This is rather of a technical nature; but increasingly, over the last year, I have noticed, as probably everyone has, that on the 8 o'clock morning news from Vancouver over CBR that the time available appears to be so short, Mr. Dunton, that the announcer, well qualified though he is, cannot avoid giving the impression that he is terribly rushed, especially in the last couple of minutes, and it seems too bad that he has only ten minutes for that 8 o'clock morning broadcast. As I say, you have a very good announcer there, he tends just to be trying to get so much talk in that by the time he comes to the end he says: as to the weather, the weather is good; that is about all he has time to say.

Mr. MURRAY: Mr. Chairman, I think I can explain that for the benefit of the honourable member. The sun has something to do with it. The sun at its meridian height is at a certain spot in the Canadian Scene at 8 o'clock in the morning at Vancouver, the Vancouver people are awake and on the job and so on, whereas the people in the east are much further along with their busy day. I think it is really a matter of time. News services are cleaned up the night before. And now, when the House closes here, let us say at 6 o'clock, it is only 3 o'clock in the afternoon in Vancouver, and the afternoon papers and the afternoon broadcasts out on the Pacific coast have already carried that news. You get on the spot news from Ottawa and from eastern points, leaving the morning papers and the morning announcers with a very limited supply of news; that is, which has not already been put on the air the night before, to be broadcast at 8 o'clock in the morning, Pacific standard time. I think Mr. Dunton will agree that that is so.

The WITNESS: I think what Mr. Fulton is saying is that there seems to be too much for the announcer to put on in the time at his disposal.

Mr. FULTON: That is certainly the impression I got, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Murray's explanation is interesting but I do not think it quite fits the facts which I am bringing to the attention of the committee, and that is that I think there is too little time allotted for the amount of news which the announcer appears to be trying to get into his broadcast. That is not just an isolated case, the one I had in mind: I have noticed it on a number of occasions. The 8 o'clock news broadcast originating over CBR in Vancouver always ends with a weather report, and while the weather report may be of little interest it is a regular part of the regular broadcast, and the poor fellow seems to be having a terrible time to get through it in the time allotted to him.

The WITNESS: I am afraid that we haven't got that information here. All that I can say is that we will look into it for you.