

controlled, as the railroads are controlled, by an independent commission. How would we like it if one of our railroads were under the control, in respect of jurisdiction, of the other? Suppose a law were passed to make the Canadian National Railway subject to the Canadian Pacific Railway in the same fashion as private stations are controlled by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, what would be the reaction of the public? Would not the national interest suffer? Would there not be protests on every hand? Or consider what would happen were the Canadian Pacific Railway controlled by the Canadian National? Yet in principle much the same thing obtains here. Private stations, having invested considerable money to develop their business find themselves under the power of a competing corporation. The C.B.C. may tell you that they do not compete, but they do; and the greater the difficulty of getting financial support, the more severe the competition will become.

The second thing against which I protest is the \$2.50 fee. The radio owner either should pay \$10 or he should not pay anything. As matters are, getting a licence is a provoking business. People forget it, and then they are called up and told that if they do not renew at once they will find themselves before the court. Now the taxpayer is to be required to put up some \$6,000,000 a year. That is the purpose of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Barbour: Will that be the whole amount required? Will not more be wanted as time goes on?

Hon. Mr. Haig: Oh, yes, it will keep going up all the time.

Hon. Mr. Barbour: I know that people in my part of the world are concerned over this.

Hon. Mr. Haig: The leader of the government (Hon. Mr. Robertson) intimated that it costs more today to run the C.B.C. than it did when it started—I believe in 1933—because costs have been going up.

Hon. Mr. Fogo: It was set up in 1935.

Hon. Mr. Haig: But the general set-up was completed in 1933, I think. Well, costs have been going up, but so far as I have seen there has been no effort to reduce the cost of living. It may decline a little for two or three months, but generally speaking it moves upward all the time. This is no reason why we should have to meet this cost. The C.B.C. is spending a tremendous amount of money in Toronto and Montreal and is giving those cities a television service that the rest of Canada will not be able to

get for years. I do not know why the taxpayers should stand for that. If the government is going to levy a tax at all, why does it not levy a tax that will be sufficient to pay the shot right across Canada? Then if people want the service they can pay for it, and if they do not want it the government can cut off the surplus revenue. This cannot be done now.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: What about increasing the rates in Toronto and Montreal?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I understand that a licence fee of \$6 or \$8 is going to be charged for television sets, but that will not even begin to meet the over-all cost.

Hon. Mr. Fogo: I understand that the stations in Montreal and Toronto will tie in with certain transmission stations operated by the Bell Telephone Company, and that, as a result, television service will be made available to private stations which otherwise would not receive it. Is the honourable gentleman aware of that?

Hon. Mr. Haig: I understand that has been discussed, but I do not know whether it will come about. Why do they not let the private stations develop their own television service? I can see no objection to it. Unlike the C.B.C., the private stations would be spending their own money and not ours. The absurd part of the present set-up is that the people of Canada are charged \$2.50 for their radio licences and then contribute something like \$6,250,000 each year in the way of taxes for their radio service. On top of all this the C.B.C. is in the business of selling programs. The private stations do not derive any revenue from licence fees or taxation; yet objection is made to them spending their own money in the development of television.

Hon. Mr. Fogo: They get quite a bit from the C.B.C.

Hon. Mr. Haig: The C.B.C. use private stations to handle certain broadcasts. They pay for it.

Hon. Mr. Fogo: The C.B.C. pays for it.

Hon. Mr. Haig: The private stations pay for it if it is of value to them. In my city of Winnipeg there is a Dominion Network station and the C.B.C., both operated by the C.B.C. The objectionable thing is that those who run the C.B.C. think they form a super-parliament and can decide what the people of Canada should and should not hear. That is not freedom of speech at all. It is a different matter with the newspapers. They are not paid by us to publish their news. The *Winnipeg Free Press*, the *Winnipeg Tribune*, and the *Montreal Gazette*, and so