

Political parties have now been more clearly defined and under the revised policy political parties have been granted free time between election campaigns. Now two half hours per month are allotted to federal political broadcasts, and Canadian listeners will have the benefit of listening to political representatives 24 times a year as compared to twice last year and none whatever up to January, 1943. Similarly, a half hour per month is allotted to provincial political broadcasts.

Your Committee believe this to be a fair arrangement and recommend that it be given a trial and that if after a year's trial it proves to be unsatisfactory that it be further revised.

The Canadian Association of Broadcasters, whose membership is made up of 64 privately-owned stations out of a total of 79 privately-owned stations, gave lengthy evidence outlining the position of the private stations in relation to the whole structure of broadcasting in Canada and a summary of their brief is as follows:—

1. That there is a useful place in the Canadian economy for the C.B.C. but that the corporation should be confined to the operation of its own stations, to program development and production and to network broadcasting over stations other than its own by fair affiliation agreements entered into freely as a matter of contract, not as a matter of regulation or compulsion.

2. That stations should be assured of the continuance of their licences and the frequency occupied so long as they operate with due regard to the public interest. The power to cancel or suspend licences, or to alter frequencies, should be taken from the C.B.C. and committed to an impartial body.

3. That as a corollary to paragraphs 1 and 2 the power to pass regulations applicable to private stations should be taken from the corporation and committed to an impartial and judicial body.

4. That private stations should be not merely permitted but encouraged to establish permanent, semi-permanent or occasional networks amongst themselves so that the better programs, sustaining and commercial, may be given to the greatest available audience—and for that purpose they should be permitted to buy lines from the line companies direct.

5. That if as now appears, a second national network is desirable and practical, such network should be established on a station co-operative basis, with a fair division as between it and the C.B.C. network of station outlets and U.S. network affiliations, and a fair arrangement as to line facilities, so that such network may be truly independent and freely competitive with the C.B.C. national network.

6. That the technical advances in the radio art, particularly television, frequency modulation, and facsimile should be developed by all broadcasting stations, public and private, and that experimental licences should be granted as applied for, as frequencies permit, and that commercial licences should be granted as soon as their operation is practical and the necessary equipment is available.

7. That the fullest possible use be made of the channels allocated to Canada under the Havana Agreement or that may be allocated under future international agreements, and that permission be given immediately to all stations to increase their power up to the practical limits allowed, and that they be encouraged to make such power increases as soon as equipment is procurable.

It is contended by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters that these principles submitted constitute a broad basis for betterment of the service to