

Supply—C.B.C.

press gallery by the name of Bird, so we had better be careful how we refer to them in order to keep things clear.

Mr. Low: Thank you. I shall be more specific. This gentleman, Mr. Grant Dexter, went on the C.B.C. and prostituted his very grave responsibility by twisting and falsifying what the hon. member for Bow River had actually said. He tried to make it appear that the hon. member for Bow River and his colleagues were anti-Semitic by saying that the hon. member mispronounced the name Coyne as Cohen.

Mr. Knowles: Did he not? He certainly did; I was here myself and heard it.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I was the one who said it, and just because you did not understand it does not mean that I said it. I did not say "Cohen".

Mr. Knowles: In this instance I will support that bird Grant Dexter.

Mr. Nicholson: I was here and I heard my hon. friend pronounce the name twice, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Thomas: He pronounced it correctly each time.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I think I should point out to hon. members, both those of the same political party as the hon. member for Peace River and those of other political parties, that the hon. member should be permitted to continue his speech without interruption.

Mr. Low: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for mediating in this squabble. As I said, Mr. Chairman, it is a prostitution of the grave responsibility of the press when a man goes on the air and attempts to absolutely falsify a thing which was said in this house, and to twist it to his own liking. In this case I charge that Mr. Dexter, who enjoys tremendous freedom in this country, ought to have measured up to the responsibility devolving upon him, and should not have tried to deliberately falsify something which, if it amounted to anything, was at the most a mere trivial incident that anybody could overlook if he had a clean decent outlook on things. I mention this as an example of the things you frequently hear on the air.

The C.C.F. spokesman said in the course of his address that the private broadcasting stations were doing very well. I do not know why, but he used as an excuse for the fact that the C.B.C. is not able to compete with the private stations and is unable to show a favourable result the reason that they are expanding and building stations and generally increasing their facilities. The

C.B.C. have never been able to compete with private broadcasters, even before they started setting up new radio and television stations. They never have shown equal results and they never will. There is just that difference between socialism and interested private ownership and management. I submit that the private broadcasting stations in this country are doing well and under the circumstances I think they are doing very well. They would be doing a whole lot better if they were not subjected to the overriding control and oftentimes the dicta of people who consider themselves to be completely omnipotent in exercising their powers.

Mr. Bryson: My reference to the private stations doing well was strictly in connection with the financial end, not the service.

Mr. Low: I will go further and say that they are doing well in service. I want to tell you that the C.B.C. will not do what private stations are doing. By the way, my hon. friend is one of the beneficiaries of the private stations which make it possible for every hon. member of this house to make regular reports to their people free of charge while they are here in parliament. The C.B.C. says, "We will grant to this party four telecasts; to this one, three; to this one, two; and to this one, one." It is even worse than that when we come to sound broadcasting.

Let me indicate just what the private stations of this country are doing. I know personally that in many cases they are going far beyond the call of any financial return or obligation. I should like to refer just briefly to station CFGP at Grande Prairie in the Peace river country. As I have travelled through Peace river constituency I have listened day after day to that station and have heard them providing a service to the people of that constituency, not only in the form of newscasts and commentaries and that sort of thing but by providing during certain hours lovely music played by artists in their own studios, particulars of people who have recently taken ill, reports from hospitals to the people at home on how their sick ones are getting along, and all that sort of thing.

Many of these private stations are performing almost heroic services for the people they serve. If they make some money out of the advertising which is paid for by private business, then I simply say that is all to the good. It is fortunate that they can get this money out of the advertising so they can carry on and give the service they do. I shall defend these private stations and what they are doing. I want to make it abundantly clear that it has been my experience that many of these stations are going away beyond any call of duty, away beyond what they are required to

[Mr. Knowles.]