

been suggested that the time I sought over the private system which had already been contracted for, was not available. I do object, however, to any head of a bureaucracy taking the stand that he must be the judge as to who shall or who shall not speak. Am I, because of the fact that I have some material wealth, going to be denied the privilege of a man who has less money? Let us take for instance the chairman of this corporation, who is a great after-dinner speaker. Supposing he wants to leave Winnipeg and speak before the Canadian Club at Vancouver, and supposing I, who hold different views to him, would like also to speak before a similar organization in Vancouver. Because of the fact that I have not the money to purchase my railway fare to get there, and he has, should he be denied the privilege of giving his views?

Along the same line of reasoning, does Mr. Brockington suggest that because I can afford to pick up a telephone and call Halifax long distance, and that Tim Buck cannot find the money, that I should be denied my rights to get my views before my man in Halifax? If you carry it one step further, are you going to have a bureaucracy set up in this country which says that if I have a more powerful voice than some other individual I should be denied the use of my voice because he cannot speak as loudly. The next thing you gentlemen will hear is that it is a sin to travel in a pullman car when you go to Toronto overnight, and you ought to sit up in the smoking compartment because somebody else cannot afford a pullman. It is just as sensible.

I maintain, Mr. Chairman, that as far as private stations are concerned, as long as this government allows private enterprise to own broadcasting stations, that they have no more right to say whether they join together in a network than they have to say that the Southams or the Siftons or anybody else, cannot buy a chain of newspapers. I ask you to consider the hypocrisy of an excuse which in effect says that I can speak over CFRB in Toronto, and that what I say may be all right for the people within the radius of that station to hear, but it is wicked for the people a little farther west in London or Sarnia to hear it. I suggest to you that it is an absolute absurdity, as is so often found to be the case where an attempt is made to support an unsupportable position.

I want to say right here that I am perfectly sympathetic with the possibility of making a mistake in the administration of any business, but I do object, strenuously, as I think you will, to the efforts of Mr. Brockington to convert a mistake into a policy for the future. Mr. Brockington in his evidence made full and generous admissions of inconsistencies in the application of the board's supposed policy, but I say that his defence of the policy itself was no less inconsistent. He said that censorship was undesirable and perhaps impossible. He said that not enough varieties of opinion had been expressed on the air. He asserted that national problems and international problems should be discussed by Canadian citizens without fear. He said that the corporation had always taken and will always take great care in the selection of network speakers to see that they are competent to discuss common problems within recognized amenities. He said that if opinion, sufficiently informed, on the lips of an attractive speaker is available, it will be offered by the CBC without remuneration as a contribution to national enlightenment and provocative discussion.

At another time in his evidence Mr. Brockington admitted that he thought I was sincerely anxious to promote public welfare, and he paid tribute to what he termed my "vital and engaging personality," for which kind words I take a bow.

Mr. BROCKINGTON: I shall have a few more adjectives this morning.

The WITNESS: Thank you very much. Continuing:

Yet with all these amiable and constructive sentiments flowing freely from his lips, he still insisted that this engaging and vital personality ought to have been denied any opportunity to promote the public welfare over any network.