

Mr. DURANLEAU: It is the minister in his capacity as minister, together with the radio commission under the powers conferred upon them by the act.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Are you satisfied?

Mr. SANDERSON: No, far from it; in fact I am rather perplexed. With all due deference I would suggest to the minister that he let this item stand and sleep on it, and tell us to-morrow who is in charge.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Perhaps in the meantime my hon. friend might read the act and become posted on the actual situation. There are some powers that are exercised by the commission, who report to the minister, and in other respects they may be under the control of the minister.

Mr. SANDERSON: Does the minister report to the chairman of the commission?

Mr. DURANLEAU: My hon. friend is joking. The minister has no report to make to the commission. The commission reports to the minister, as I have already told the committee.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: May I ask the minister whether the actual relationship between the commission and the department is not somewhat similar to the relationship between the pension commission and the Department of Pensions and National Health?

Mr. NEILL: Once when I was at Sunday school—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. NEILL: I observe with pain the frivolous reception which greeted that remark; it indicates the low mentality of those responsible for it. As I was saying, once at Sunday school I read a beautiful little book, into the details of which I will not go now; which was called "Alone, Yet Not Alone." That seems to describe the relationship between the minister and the commission.

Now that I have a chance, Mr. Chairman—for which I have been waiting patiently for an hour and a half—I should like to ask several questions for the sake of information, which I will put together so that the minister can answer them all at once. Possibly they do not come under this item, though I think they do. I should like to know which branch of the service, that is, the radio commission or the departmental officials, is charged with the issuing of licences for radio receiving sets. Then I should like to know the system now in vogue in connection with those licences. I remember that once we went to some gov-

[Mr. Sanderson.]

ernment office, but more recently we have gone to the radio agent who sold the machine and obtained our licence from him. Perhaps he received a little rake-off or commission on those licences, and if so I would like to know what it amounted to. Now it appears that they are going to have it thrown into politics, as usual, and there will be one man appointed through political influence, which has happened already in my district. He will be termed the inspector of radio licences. Pretty soon we will have an inspector of dog licences, I suppose. I must say, however, that in the district I represent a very worthy man has been selected as chief inspector, and if my memory is not wrong—and I speak subject to correction—he gets a commission of ten per cent.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Is that Mr. McDonald?

Mr. NEILL: For once Mr. McDonald seems to have missed a job, but I have no doubt he will get the local appointment; I have every confidence in my hon. friend seeing that Mr. McDonald will get it. I understand, as I say, that the inspector gets a commission of ten per cent. Then there is to be a local man appointed by the patronage committee in every little centre, who will have charge of the actual issuing of licences, and if I am not mistaken he will get a commission of 25 per cent. That is a total commission of 35 per cent, representing 70 cents out of the fee of \$2. I do not know any tax in Canada the cost of collecting which amounts to 35 per cent.

Mr. ARTHURS: Better look up the facts.

Mr. NEILL: I asked the minister to correct me if I am wrong, and I must say perhaps I am wrong about the 25 per cent, because I do not know. But if that is so, that is a tremendous cost for collecting these amounts.

Then there is just one other point on which I should like to get information, and I hope the minister will reassure me. We know that under the old system of control we paid \$1 for these licences, but as soon as there was any suggestion of government control the fee was immediately jumped to \$2, an increase of one hundred per cent. To a great many people the difference between \$1 and \$2 does not amount to anything, but to a great many more people it does mean a great deal. Now I see some symptoms, having a mean and suspicious mind, which I interpret as a sort of kite flying to see whether the people will stand for a fee of \$3. I saw a suggestion recently in the Press that no doubt when the thing was working satisfactorily the people would not grudge paying \$3 for such a valu-