

For instance, Mr. Claxton reported from Paris on the developments of the Peace Conference. I imagine that our representative there would ask him to do that. Last year during the meetings of the United Nations in London we definitely asked different members of the Canadian delegation, including Mr. Graydon and Mr. Knowles, to go on the air, but not to give political opinions.

Q. Have you ever had an occasion to refuse such a request?—A. I cannot remember of any case. I think the requests have not been at all excessive and always very reasonable.

Q. Unless you can turn up something else, we can take it that there have been no refusals?—A. No.

*By Mr. Hackett:*

Q. I want to ask you a question, and so that we may be quite clear about it, I may tell you what I fear so that you can supplement, if necessary, the words of my question. I fear that the broadcasting of CBC may become a monopoly which will deny political parties the right to use CBC equipment for the presentation of views and opinions of the party making the request. I have understood that in 1942, I think it was, when the plebiscite was in progress, the parties which wanted a negative answer given were denied the use of CBC for that purpose. I am going to ask you if that is a fact?—A. I am not sure. Dr. Frigon says that is so.

Q. I am not going to criticize, but I would like to know what the basis of refusal of that type is. The people of Canada were asked a question to which the answer was yes or no, and why should the political group that favoured the "no" answer have been denied an opportunity of putting forward their point of view?—A. Perhaps Dr. Frigon can tell you.

Dr. FRIGON: That was in 1942, four years ago. We have changed our policy somewhat since then and I can say that, perhaps, we made a mistake in 1942. That is all I can tell you.

Mr. BEAUDOIN: Mr. Chairman, my understanding was that time had been given to political parties to express their views on the plebiscite at the time, and political groups who wanted to speak in favour of the negative had no status then. They had not been formed at the time this question was being discussed and, therefore, they could not be accepted on the same level with the other political parties with which CBC had come to an agreement.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): This is the party that was denied the opportunity of speaking—

Mr. BEAUDOIN: You are referring to the Bloc Populaire.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): —which might have interested people who voted in the negative, and this party was represented in the House by Mr. Raymond and by some others who supported him from time to time; but I do not wish to go into the details. I was merely trying to get a statement of policy, and Dr. Frigon has said that he now thinks it was an error of policy to have denied to the group full expression of those views. I am satisfied with the answer.

Dr. FRIGON: Mr. Chairman, I might add this. I am referring now to what happened on the French network. There was no interference on the part of the CBC to the fact that the "no" side, as we called it then, did broadcast in Quebec. In fact, there were many more broadcasts on the "no" side in Quebec than broadcasts on the "yes" side. The people who wanted to advise the voters to vote against the plebiscite had all the opportunity to express their views on private stations, and they did; so if there was any mistake it was for us not to accept certain groups belonging to political parties to go on CBC stations. At that time I must admit I was not a party in the negotia-