

The next question:

Did CFCN, Calgary, 1010 kilocycles, ask permission to increase its output to 50,000 watts?

Yes, it did make that request, and it was refused on grounds of general policy, under which private radio stations are not given the right to increase their power to that extent.

The next question was:

Was CFCN refused permission to increase its output to 50,000 watts?

The answer is, yes. The question went on:

Who were the men who refused this permission?

The procedure is that the application is made to the broadcasting corporation, which reviews it and makes a recommendation to the Minister of Transport, who, under the Radiotelegraph Act has the power to issue a licence if recommended.

Next:

Did C.B.C. seek concurrence of the government in C.B.C.'s decision to refuse?

The government does not interfere in the management of C.B.C.

Next:

Did the government concur? Was its concurrence the result of a ministerial decision, a departmental decision, a cabinet decision?

I have given the answer to that.

Next:

What were the reasons for the decision to deny CFCN the privilege of expanding its power to 50,000 watts?

The reason was the general policy with reference to increasing the power of private stations. The policy follows the recommendations of committees of parliament which have given study to this matter.

Next:

If the decision was made by the C.B.C. without the government's concurrence, what were the government's safeguards against preventing the development of private stations that failed of effectiveness in preventing this unwarranted blocking of the development of the splendid private station known as CFCN?

There is no attempt to interfere with CFCN, except that the frequency it occupies is now to be occupied by C.B.C. itself.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is really the whole point. The minister cannot gloss over it like that. When you take away the frequency of a station you take away its listening audience to a great extent, as the hon. member from Greenwood indicated.

Mr. McCANN: A greater principle is involved there. The airways of this country belong to all of the people of Canada.

Mr. MASSEY: And not to C.B.C.

Mr. McCANN: No. C.B.C. acts as trustees of the airways for the people of Canada.

Mr. MASSEY: Operators.

Mr. McCANN: I for one believe in state-owned, state-operated and state-controlled radio in this country, and that is the policy of the party to which the hon. member belongs, the policy which his party endorsed in 1932.

Mr. MASSEY: No.

Mr. McCANN: Oh, yes. The then prime minister of this country, the leader of my hon. friend's party, brought in a radio act in 1932. Let me read what he said.

Mr. GRAYDON: At least you are going to a good source.

Mr. McCANN: A few days ago when speaking in this house the hon. member for Calgary West decried Mr. Bennett being quoted so often. I do not quote him because he was Mr. Bennett, or because I was on the intimate terms with him claimed by the hon. member for Calgary West. I quote him because he was the leader of a great party in this house, the only one in thirty years who was elected a member, leader of his party and prime minister. That puts him in a position where he may quite properly be quoted. In a speech that he made on May 18, 1932, on the second reading of a bill respecting radio broadcasting Mr. Bennett said, as reported at page 3035 of *Hansard*:

Secondly, no other scheme than that of public ownership can ensure to the people of this country, without regard to class or place, equal enjoyment of the benefits and pleasures of radio broadcasting. Private ownership must necessarily discriminate between densely and sparsely populated areas. This is not a correctable fault in private ownership; it is an inescapable and inherent demerit of that system. It does not seem right that in Canada the towns should be preferred to the countryside or the prosperous communities to those less fortunate. In fact, if no other course were possible, it might be fair to suggest that it should be the other way about. Happily, however, under this system, there is no need for discrimination; all may be served alike. Equality of service is assured by the plan which calls for a chain of high power stations throughout Canada. And furthermore, the particular requirements of any community may be met by the installation of low power stations by means of which local broadcasting service may be obtained.

That speech was made after the policy recommended by the Aird commission had been put into effect. He went on to say:

... I cannot think that any government would be warranted in leaving the air to private exploitation and not reserving it for development for the use of the people.

Mr. GRAYDON: That still does not back you up.