

We have one suggested experimental use at the beginning, if receiving sets are available here (perhaps in conjunction with the Canadian newspapers), to give some limited news service we propose to broadcast both in English and French a sort of Canadian "Listener," along the lines of the BBC "Listener" where we can give an analysis of programs, stories of the opera and a number of things of interest to the people in Canada—articles, reproduction of speeches which have been acceptable over the air, and a number of other cultural, educational and national features. One fact is certain, that we propose as soon as possible to make some experiments. The essential policy remains that we do not propose to alienate any rights to private broadcasting interests.

I come now, gentlemen, to short-wave. If you will remember, when I appeared before you last year I made a plea, which was accepted by this committee, to the government of Canada for the construction of a short-wave station for national purposes, the station to be operated by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the cost to be borne, for obvious reasons, by the state.

During the past year we have been obliged seriously to consider again the position with regard to short-wave. It is felt that developments in this field should be controlled in the public interest.

With respect to short-wave, the Corporation has laid down the policy of recommending no new licences pending clarification of its own plans for a short-wave system. The Corporation's technical plan envisages the construction of a high-power short-wave system which would serve to facilitate the exchange of programs with Great Britain, France and other countries and accordingly act as a powerful medium of national advertisement. I may say that Canada, of all the great countries in the world, is the one country that is most seriously behind in short-wave development.

It will be recalled that the committee of last year adopted our recommendation. In recent months the Corporation has emphasized to the government the difficulties under which it labours in the absence of such an undertaking. Those difficulties occur in the matter of program exchange; they have arisen with peculiar emphasis in connection with the King's visit. We have taken such precautions as are within our powers to safeguard Canada's right to short-wave channels.

You may remember also that when I discussed this matter last year I emphasized, first of all, the possibility of international good-will afforded to a country whose national fabric is drawn from so many strands, and where one of the greatest experiments of reconciliation between nations is taking place under our very eyes. I felt, too, and I think I emphasized, that the great strength of Canadian civilization, namely, the equal partnership of two great races, gave us a unique opportunity to interpret not only Anglo-Saxon civilization to the world but also Latin civilization. I felt, too, that from the purely commercial point of view short-wave stations would give us a most excellent opportunity of advertising the sale of Canadian goods. I have recently been a member of the so-called Bracken wheat committee which is examining the possibility of regaining lost markets. At every meeting which I have attended somebody has suggested the possibility of the use of Canadian short-wave international radio for pushing the sale of Canadian wheat and flour in the advancement of the legitimate and paramount trade interests of this country. It has so many advantages that it should again be urged upon the government by this committee in the hope that something will be done.

When I made that deviation I was just saying that the Corporation has taken such precautions as are within its power to safeguard Canada's right to short-wave channels. Through the Department of Transport it reserved with the Union Internationale de Radio Diffusion at Berne, Switzerland, suitable short-wave frequencies in the 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 21 and 25 megacycle bands.