

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Intelligent cooperation.

Mr. DURANLEAU: It may be; but I say no member has any power over supervisors.

Mr. SANDERSON: The hon. member for South Huron asked a question about the authority of a sitting member to dismiss a vendor. I should like to ask if a defeated government candidate would have power of dismissal?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I would give the same answer to that question; he would have no more power than a member.

Mr. SANDERSON: Does the minister know of any instance where a defeated candidate has gone beyond his power and has had the supervisor dismiss an appointee? Has he knowledge of any such case?

Mr. DURANLEAU: No.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Under this government that happens every day.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: I must confess this discussion has developed into a sort of Chinese puzzle, except that I am quite sure the method of collecting radio licences has a political complexion. I understood the minister to say that the tenure of office of supervisors expires to-day, and that he is not sure whether or not the same system will be carried on for another year. I would like to point out to the minister that he can very well afford to change the system that has been in operation the last ten months. He has been paying two and a half per cent commission to the post offices, seven and a half percent to the banks and a similar amount to the dealers, but he has been paying twenty per cent commission to the supervisors. I am not saying that even the twenty per cent compensates them for the work they do; I do not believe it does. I have heard that they lost money through trying to collect radio licences even on the twenty per cent commission. But in view of the information given the committee that 69.9 per cent of radio licences have been sold by dealers and the fees collected in that way, and that the supervisors have collected fees in respect of receiving sets of which the department had no record, surely by this time there must be a complete record of all radio receiving sets in the country. It would seem unnecessary to have a long list of supervisors throughout the country, political appointees, who receive a twenty per cent commission on collections. This could, I submit, be very well handled through the post offices, the mounted police, and the radio distributors. Through these

three sources, and with the information the department already has, it should be possible to maintain a complete record of all radio owners and collect all licence fees without employing the supervisors who seem to me to have a strong political complexion.

Mr. MALCOLM: I should like to ask the minister, having regard to information I have received from some of his officials, why he cannot adopt the suggestion I have made. I am informed that 3,297,000 radio tubes were made and sold in Canada last year. A tax of fifty cents per tube would give the department a revenue of over \$1,600,000. Why not adopt that system and save all this trouble and expense?

Mr. DURANLEAU: That is a matter to be considered.

Mr. GRAY: Am I right in assuming that the supervisor is responsible to the minister only for the payment of \$1.60 per licence?

Mr. DURANLEAU: That is correct.

Mr. GRAY: Am I right in assuming that he can then peddle these licences to whomever he wishes, and at whatever rate he wishes, allowing the vendor 20 cents in one case, 40 cents in another, or whatever rate he has a mind to make, and that the department has no supervision over what the supervisor may make on each licence?

Mr. DURANLEAU: As long as the supervisor charges no more than \$2 to the radio owner for the licence, we have nothing to do with his vendors.

Mr. GRAY: Have I made myself clear? I am not concerned what he charges to the licensee, but I am concerned with the question whether you have any control over what the supervisor charges to the vendor.

Mr. DURANLEAU: In the instructions of the department to the supervisor we state that 10 cents goes to him and 30 cents to the vendor. But we do not exercise any control of the supervisors on that account.

Mr. MALCOLM: They may cut rates if they want to?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I think every vendor knows perfectly well he is entitled to 30 cents.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): But as long as you receive \$1.60 you are satisfied?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Provided the radio owners are well treated.

Mr. MALCOLM: Can the minister inform me what rates are charged for radio receiving sets in hotel rooms?