

rather too difficult for the commission to carry on as my hon. friend apparently understood me to indicate. Perhaps I was speaking hurriedly if he so understood me.

Mr. MALCOLM: The possibility of patent litigation is what occurs to me. Undoubtedly the commission will be empowered to issue cheques for current expenses, wages and so forth. But should a large patent suit arise, which the commission would have to defend—and this is quite within the realm of possibility in relation to so highly technical a business—would the judgment be satisfied by the commission taking out of current revenue a sufficient sum for the purpose, or would the plaintiff have to secure an act of parliament before his judgment could be met?

Mr. BENNETT: In my opinion, the plaintiff obtaining such a judgment would, as this statute now stands, have to wait until an appropriation was made by parliament to enable the judgment to be discharged; and my view of the matter, having regard to my experience with the courts, is that the court would grant a stay until such time as parliament could make an appropriation to meet the judgment.

Mr. HOWARD: I agree with the provisions of this bill, but there is one suggestion which I should like to offer to the Prime Minister. In view of the preponderance of French Canadians in my province—and indeed there are many French Canadians throughout the rest of Canada—I submit that one commissioner should be French-speaking.

Mr. BENNETT: I thought that was understood in the committee. The chairman tells me it is so.

Mr. MALCOLM: There is one other point in connection with section 20 which I want to bring to the Prime Minister's attention. Under this bill the oath of office seems to me to be too broad:

... in my personal capacity or as a shareholder in any company or partner in any firm or otherwise, in any commercial dealing in relation to radio broadcasting or in the manufacture or distribution of sending or receiving sets or other radio equipment.

With the last clause I see no difficulty; but can anyone imagine any line of business in Canada that will not be affected by radio broadcasting? Almost every line of business will use the radio at some time or other for advertising purposes, and this requirement is so broad that it almost prohibits the commissioner from investing his money in any business or stock, because, almost every business uses the radio for advertising.

Mr. BENNETT: If the hon. gentleman will look at it closely he will see that it refers to the dealings of the individual himself.

Mr. MALCOLM: Of the commissioner.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. Two things you have in mind; one is that he shall not be in a position where he would benefit by reason of being a shareholder or partner in any business that has any relationship with radio. The other clause to which the hon. gentleman refers must be read in the sense of the commissioner individually having dealings with such enterprises.

Mr. MALCOLM: But may I point out that two competitive firms might be demanding the same hour, one of them having a considerable number of shareholders among the employees of the company. Employees would not be shareholders in any company broadcasting, without showing preference to their own company.

Mr. BENNETT: It would not be construed so broadly.

Mr. MALCOLM: That is the way it is worded.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not think so.

Mr. MALCOLM: I submit that it could be interpreted in that way.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Section 14 provides that the commission:

may expend for the purposes of this act the moneys appropriated by parliament for such purposes.

Is it intended that the licence fees and other revenues must pay the salaries and everything else connected with the act?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I have received a good many letters from people in my constituency, and there seems to be a misunderstanding with regard to this bill. These people intimate to me that they are satisfied with the present arrangement in connection with radio broadcasting in Canada. They appear to be rather apprehensive of this departure and one reason is that they are afraid that this new system will make the radio too expensive. The radio licence heretofore has been \$1, and now it has been increased to \$2, and some people are afraid that if we set up a commission and all the money necessary for its operations has to come out of licence fees, then instead of \$2 the fee may be increased to \$10 within a year. This is something of considerable importance to the people of Saskatchewan, and I should like to