

delegates of Canada to the United Nations Assembly, I mentioned that the propagation of faith was one of the greatest defense armaments that could be built up to meet communism. Shortly after that I received a very bitter letter, anonymously written, telling me that I had been declared by the so-called peace lovers of Canada to be a criminal, and that the moment that Kurt Meyer was released they would see that I took his place in prison. I have not the letter here at the moment, and I do not intend to make any further reference to it now. But later on the *Pacific Tribune*, a communist paper of Vancouver, published that letter, except the part containing the threat. Yet, if anyone suggested in parliament that this and other communist papers now published in Canada should be abolished, I would oppose it. On two official occasions I have stated that I was opposed to the suggested abolition of the communist party. I think that neither the party nor its publications should be prohibited unless war broke out or became imminent, when of course such things might be dangerous to our national safety. I make these comments so as to emphasize that I desire to say nothing whatever against free speech but I do believe that great care should be taken by members of the C.B.C. Board of Governors as to what goes out over the air and to the responses that broadcasts evoke.

Now, to come back to my suggestion for the creation of a new body of which the Chairman of the C.B.C. Board of Governors should be a member, I wish to quote two statements from the report of the Massey Commission. As I have said before, I think that commission did a marvellous work, though I differ with some of its recommendations. In one part of its report the commission said:

In Canada we conceive the principle that radio broadcasting is a public trust that has been followed consistently for twenty years.

Now, twenty years would take us back to the date mentioned a little while ago by the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig), back to 1931. And in 1936 parliament made a definite change in the whole conception of what is called a public trust. Until 1936 the public radio system was under the control of the Canadian Broadcasting Commission, but in that year parliament revised that body's powers and changed its name to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. So a definite corporate change in the C.B.C. was made in 1936, during the period in which the Massey Commission says that broadcasting in Canada has been accepted as a national trust, and that therefore it is entirely unnecessary to make any change in the whole broadcasting set-up. The change that I am suggesting is that the private radio stations

and all their broadcasts should be under the supervision, not of the Board of Governors of the C.B.C. but of another board, of which, as I have already said, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the C.B.C. should be a member.

In a sort of prefatory statement the Massey Commission quoted the following from St. Augustine, which might be taken as the basis of the kind of study that they gave to the work assigned to them:

A nation is an association of reasonable beings united in a peaceful sharing of the things they cherish; therefore, to determine the quality of a nation you must consider what those things are.

That statement, by St. Augustine, is an excellent base for any commission of that kind to build its work upon. But I want to say this, that in so far as radio is concerned—and radio is definitely a very important feature of the things that belong to us a nation now, and certainly was so looked upon by the Massey Commission—I want to say that since “a nation is an association of reasonable beings united in a peaceful sharing of the things they cherish”, then it is the duty of parliamentarians, of Ministers of the Crown and of those who up to this time have been entrusted with the supervision and administration of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, to see whether they cannot bring into Canada's radio life a more peaceful sharing of the things we Canadians cherish. I say that because the present relations between the private stations and the C.B.C. and the relations between those who are in favour of uncontrolled operation of private stations and those who prefer positive control by the C.B.C. are not of a peaceful nature. Therefore, in order that the saying of St. Augustine may be properly applied, I am recommending that during the next few months parliament, the cabinet, the C.B.C. Board of Governors and all others concerned give thought to a change in the general radio set-up, so as to be in a position to consider next session a change along the lines I have indicated, which I intend to propose in this chamber.

Hon. Mr. Crerar: Honourable senators, I wish to make a few observations on this bill, but I do not think I could conclude before one o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: In order that we may make as much progress as possible today I would suggest that we resume sitting this afternoon at 2.30.

It being 1 o'clock, the Acting Speaker left the Chair.