

events correctly, he was denied access to any network?—A. Sorry, that is not correct, Mr. Fleming.

Q. Then the matter came up and the CBC said they would give a specified time to him. And now, perhaps I will let you go ahead and make your statement before I go any further.—A. Just to summarize very briefly: an agency applied on behalf of Mr. Drew to buy time, three half hours, on the national network of the CBC, to buy that time. That is against CBC's policy which prohibits the sponsorship of opinion broadcasts on a network. That is the policy which was actually first recommended—certainly approved by several parliamentary committees.

Mr. COLDWELL: 1938 was the first.

The WITNESS: I think it goes back to 1938, that networks of the CBC hook-ups would not be sold for money for any opinion broadcasting. The request made on behalf of Colonel Drew was turned down for that reason. The Board of Governors was meeting at that time and authorized the offering to Colonel Drew, and also of course to any other similar request, of a half hour free on the national network to discuss the matter. Of course, naturally that might have been a beginning, if he had taken it up, and other premiers had taken it up. It might have gone across; it might have caused various other premiers to request a free half hour on the national network.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. And you say the request came from some agency?—A. Yes, from an advertising agency in Toronto.

Q. If he had made the request himself would your decision have been in any way different?—A. Not if it was for paid time.

Q. Your decision would not have been any different?—A. Not if it was for paid time, to buy time.

Q. In other words, you would not have sold him time even if he had made a personal application?—A. Any application for the purchase of time for such a purpose would have been turned down.

Q. So there is no significance to the request having been made through an advertising agency—A. Except just showing what is very definitely commercial business, for the sale of time.

Q. Oh well, yes. It would have had the same result if he had made personal application—A. For buying time?

Q. Yes.—A. He made no personal application saying would you give me time, might I have time. The first request came in the form of a request from an agency to buy time.

*By the Vice-Chairman:*

Q. Was this request for time on a national network or provincial?—A. On a national network.

Q. Is it not a fact that provincial premiers may have time free on a provincial network?—A. That was offered to Premier Drew, the same as to other premiers when they have something about which they want to speak pertaining to their own province. We have a general practice of putting on at times when it is necessary leaders of government to report to their people about something which has actually been done. That was offered to Premier Drew and all the other provincial premiers to do that in their own provinces.

Q. And that would apply to leaders of the opposition in the provincial House?—A. No, that would be political.

Q. I mean, touching general questions?—A. We try to keep a difference between political and opinion broadcasts; for instance, there are times when a governing authority should report to the people about something that has been going on which is of general interest.