

MOTION FOR PAPERS

ILE-AUX-COUDRES-LES EBOULEMENTS
FERRY SERVICE

Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, petitions and other documents in connection with the contract to be awarded by the Trade and Commerce department, for the ferry-boat service between Ile-aux-Coudres and Les Eboulements, in the county of Charlevoix, since the 1st of January, 1932, together with the evidence taken in writing of all the witnesses heard at the hearing held by Mr. F. E. Bawden, of the Trade and Commerce department, at Baie St-Paul, in the month of May, 1932, and his report upon such matter to the minister, and the decision arrived at by the minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: When this motion was first introduced, objection was taken that it was premature in that it asked for particulars in connection with a contract that had not yet been awarded. The request was made that the motion should be allowed to stand until it became appropriate. Therefore it stands.

Mr. BENNETT: It is a question of policy. Motion stands.

UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PAPERS

FAUVEL, QUE., POST OFFICE INVESTIGATION

Mr. MARCIL:

For a copy of the report made by the commissioner appointed to inquire into the Fauvel post office, county of Bonaventure, together with copy of the evidence taken at that investigation.

RADIO BROADCASTING

CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION FOR ACQUISITION,
OPERATION, REGULATION AND CONTROL

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved the second reading of Bill No. 94, respecting radio broadcasting.

He said: In moving the second reading of the bill which stands in my name, I desire to intimate to the house that in a general way it follows the committee's report which was unanimously adopted a few days ago and it is based upon principles which the government believes should be adopted, because they fulfil two essential requirements without which radio broadcasting in Canada must fail in service to the Canadian people.

First of all, this country must be assured of complete Canadian control of broadcasting from Canadian sources, free from foreign interference or influence. Without such control radio broadcasting can never become a great agency for the communication of matters of

national concern and for the diffusion of national thought and ideals, and without such control it can never be the agency by which national consciousness may be fostered and sustained and national unity still further strengthened. Other and alternative systems may meet the requirements of other countries, and in any case it is not my purpose to comment unfavourably upon those systems. But it seems to me clear that in Canada the system we can most profitably employ is one which, in operation and control, responds most directly to the popular will and the national need. In this stage of our national development we have problems peculiar to ourselves and we must reach a solution of them through the employment of all available means. The radio has a place in the solution of all those problems. It becomes, then, the duty of parliament to safeguard it in such a way that its fullest benefits may be assured to the people as a whole.

Furthermore, radio broadcasting, controlled and operated in this way, can serve as a dependable link in a chain of empire communication by which we may be more closely united one with the other in that enduring fellowship which is founded on the clear and sympathetic understanding which grows out of closer mutual knowledge.

No other system of radio broadcasting can meet these national requirements and empire obligations. Therefore, the parliament of Canada is asked to support the principle embodied in this measure.

Secondly, no other scheme than that of public ownership can ensure to the people of this country, without regard to class or place, equal enjoyment of the benefits and pleasures of radio broadcasting. Private ownership must necessarily discriminate between densely and sparsely populated areas. This is not a correctable fault in private ownership; it is an inescapable and inherent demerit of that system. It does not seem right that in Canada the towns should be preferred to the countryside or the prosperous communities to those less fortunate. In fact, if no other course were possible, it might be fair to suggest that it should be the other way about. Happily, however, under this system, there is no need for discrimination; all may be served alike. Equality of service is assured by the plan which calls for a chain of high power stations throughout Canada. And furthermore, the particular requirements of any community may be met by the installation of low power stations by means of which local broadcasting service may be obtained.