

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I spoke to this motion on Monday at which time the hon. member was not in the house. I do not know whether or not he has read my remarks, but I might say that I pointed out that it has not been the practice of my or any other department to disclose the operations of any private concern. In the annual report of the Board of Grain Commissioners most complete statements are given of overages and other matters pertaining to the operation of elevators, but it has not been the practice to disclose what each elevator or each company had on hand. My hon. friend wrote the department some time ago and I think the deputy minister replied in much the same manner in which I am now replying. I would suggest to the house that if my hon. friend is agreeable this resolution be dropped for the time being until it is decided whether or not we should disclose the operations of private companies.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The attitude of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) is quite understandable but I would draw his attention to the fact that a few years ago when the Grain Act was under revision a very full list of the names of companies operating and their overages was published and became part of the record. With all due deference to the minister, I fail to see when a company has a certain quantity of goods on hand at the end of the year why that information should not be considered as a matter of public concern.

Mr. STEVENS: If my hon. friend will drop the resolution for the time being and talk this matter over with me I am sure we can reach an agreement. There is no desire on my part to withhold any proper information.

Motion dropped.

RADIO COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. PIERRE F. CASGRAIN (Charlevoix-Saguenay) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to inquire from the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) who, at present, is acting for the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau), whether it is a fact that La Patrie of Montreal has obtained a permit to operate a broadcasting station, under the call CKEP?

Hon. MAURICE DUPRE (Acting Minister of Marine) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, in reply I wish to state that, yesterday, I notified my hon. colleague, the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), that I would make a

correction, today, to the statement I made yesterday. My statement was that no broadcasting permit had been issued since the Radio Commission had been appointed. I used the word "appointed." This may have been the cause of some ambiguity, I therefore wish to dispel such ambiguity, if it exists. I should have said: "since the commission had been sworn in." No permit was issued except one—and this is my reply to my hon. friend from Charlevoix-Saguenay—of 100 watts to La Patrie. The permit was issued by myself, as interim Minister of Marine, previously, however, to the commission being sworn in, the latter had no say in the matter.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East) (Translation): Does the hon. minister think it proper to issue permits to new stations when a commission is appointed in order to place radio broadcasting under state control?

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): It is a debatable question. If I assert it is, my hon. friend will maintain the contrary. I, therefore, will allow my reply to stand as I gave it.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Translation): It is absolutely the opposite to what we did last session.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): We followed the ordinary routine. We equally granted these privileges to La Presse and the Star.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): May I, sir, put another question—with reference to the same subject—to the interim Minister of Marine? Some time ago, we were informed by the press that the Radio Commission was to undertake an inspection tour throughout the country. I trust that the commission will not overlook the electoral division which I have the honour to represent.

Mr. SPEAKER (Text): I would call the hon. member's attention to the fact that this is not a time for debate.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Text): I am putting a question, Mr. Speaker. (Translation): I wish to inquire from the hon. minister as to whether the commission will carry out an inspection tour in my constituency which comprises the following districts: Montmorency, Charlevoix-Saguenay, l'Île aux Coudres, Ashuanipé, New Quebec, the island of Anticosti and the Canadian Labrador coast. The reason for putting this question—and I leave it to the good common sense of all—is that in these districts which are far remote, there are localities where reception is poor.