

Radio—Broadcasting Privileges

other side. It may be unsatisfactory from my hon. friend's point of view, but from this side I can see him very well.

BREN MACHINE GUN CONTRACT**TABLING OF EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT HEARD BEFORE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. G. MacNEIL (Vancouver North): Will the Prime Minister indicate at the earliest possible day, not necessarily to-day, whether the house will be placed in possession of copies of the evidence and the argument heard before the commissioner during the inquiry into the Bren machine gun contract?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I may answer my hon. friend at once. I shall be very glad to lay on the table of the house the evidence and the argument in connection with the Bren gun inquiry. They are in the possession of the government and I shall have them tabled tomorrow.

RADIO BROADCASTING**REFUSAL OF BROADCASTING PRIVILEGES TO PUBLISHER OF TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL—STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Before the special order is called I should like to make a statement to the house. Hon. members have doubtless seen reports in the press to the effect that the government had refused the privilege of broadcasting to the publisher of one of Canada's leading newspapers. I simply wish to say that the government has had nothing whatever to do with refusing any application that has been made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Neither the government nor any member of the government had any knowledge that an application had been made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation by the publisher of one of Toronto's leading newspapers, nor had any member of the government any knowledge that such an application had been refused.

As hon. members know, the business of controlling and regulating radio broadcasting has been placed by this parliament under the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which is an autonomous public body and with which the government does not interfere and has no desire to interfere. The general manager of the corporation has issued to the press a statement which gives a full explanation of

[Mr. Cardin.]

the application itself and the grounds on which it was refused. I have in my hand a copy of the statement and if hon. members will take it as read I shall place it on the table that it may be printed in Hansard with the remarks I have made. The statement is one which, I think, will be of interest to hon. members.

CBC Statement given to the Press by Mr. Gladstone Murray, General Manager of the CBC, January 15th, 1939.

Mr. George McCullagh applied to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to buy time for a series of broadcast talks on the national network of the Corporation in order to give his views on public questions. The application was refused in accordance with the policy of the Corporation in dealing with controversial broadcasts. This policy is based on the principle of encouraging the free discussion of all subjects of public interest in round-table discussions, debates, talks, and forums, for which the Corporation provides time without charge. No individual may purchase any network to broadcast his own opinions and no profit-making corporation may purchase any network to broadcast opinions. Far from being a restraint on free speech, the Corporation's policy is an assurance that liberty of discussion is preserved, that all main points of view are fairly presented, and that the possession of wealth does not confer the right to use network broadcasting to influence opinion.

Having failed to secure time on the national network Mr. McCullagh attempted to buy time over a network of privately-owned stations. As all network broadcasting in Canada is under the control of the Corporation, under the specific authority of the Canadian Broadcasting Act of 1936, the permission of the Corporation would have been required to give effect to the new plan. As the same general principle in controversial broadcasts applies to all networks in Canada, the second application was also refused.

Mr. McCullagh had already been invited to participate in the Corporation's Sunday evening National Forum at no cost to him. Mr. McCullagh declined the invitation, which, however, remains open.

The Corporation's decision and the reasons for it were communicated to Mr. McCullagh in a letter, dated January 5th, which is now released for publication.

The decision was taken by the Corporation on its own responsibility in accordance with the policy laid down by the Board of Governors.

It is pointed out that the Corporation's policy regarding this class of network broadcasting is similar to that of the National Broadcasting Company of the United States.

On the same date Mr. Gladstone Murray released the following letter to Mr. McCullagh:
Ottawa, Ontario
January 5th, 1939.

Dear Mr. McCullagh:

Thank you for your letter of the 4th instant. I shall be glad to set out fully the reasons why the corporation was obliged to reject your application to purchase network time for the purpose of placing your views on public questions before the listeners of Canada.