

Q. Dealing with the last point I take it that one factor in the consideration of the CBC board is that if they permit private stations to increase their power, that might be some challenge to the monopoly enjoyed by the CBC over the national field. Is that involved?—A. Yes. I would not put it in those words. Going back to the policy of the former radio committees, and the one implicit in the Broadcast Act, there is a division of functions, the CBC, on behalf of the public, doing as wide a job as possible, and the local stations concentrating on community services.

Q. Will you forgive me if I say this: I am not asking you for an exposition of the policy of the CBC; you keep going back to that so frequently. You answer, "This has been the policy that has been laid down". I am less concerned with the policy as with the reasonableness of what has been done or not done. I am still troubled with this: I speak quite frankly and I expect you to answer the same way. I am still asking myself what harm could accrue to the CBC if those private stations were permitted to increase their strength? We have been told by Dr. Frigon that this was going to extend the area of coverage, but only slightly.—A. He was saying that the percentage of listeners might not be increased greatly.

Q. It means better response for the listeners?—A. Yes, but out in the country you do not have as many listeners per square mile as you do in the more populated metropolitan areas.

Q. All right, this station we are speaking of, and the other more powerful privately-owned stations are, generally speaking, in the larger centres. I take it that an increase in frequency, generally, is not going to mean a tremendous increase in the number of listeners and to bring these stations into keener competition with the CBC?—A. It would mean, particularly in the case of a station going to a higher power, that it would cover a whole area of the country. I do not want to put as much emphasis on the smaller percentage as Dr. Frigon does; however, you cover a much wider area of southern Ontario with an increase in the number of people you are covering. It has never been thought that a community station would try to serve a whole region of the country.

Q. You go back to policy again there.—A. My thinking is naturally very closely related to policy.

Q. We have talked about censorship during wartime. When did the government cease, if it did, to exercise any degree of censorship over broadcasting?—A. I think it was just after V-J day. Dr. McCann would probably know.

Hon. Dr. McCANN: It would be about the 11th or 12th of August, I think.

Mr. FLEMING: Has the CBC, since that time, received any request?

Hon. Dr. McCANN: It seems to me, Mr. Fleming, that all censorship went off; it went off by order in council at a certain date; I think it was within about 48 hours after V-J day.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Thank you. Since that date has the CBC received any requests from the government not to broadcast anything particularly?—A. The only one I can recall was one about broadcasting the news of disturbances in penitentiaries.

Q. That was last fall.—A. Yes.

Q. Was that after you came into your present position?—A. I think the request was received before, but it came up at a board meeting late in November, and the board decided there should be no restriction at all.

Q. Would you indicate what was the directive you received from the government and the action taken by the CBC.—A. I am not fully familiar with it; but I understand there was a request received that the CBC, in its