

the national radio free from the possibility of political influence that its income should not depend annually on direct action by the government of the day. A statutory grant seems to us a more satisfactory method, because it enables the C.B.C. to formulate reasonably long range plans with the confidence that its income will not be decreased over a period of years. A convenient way of providing adequate revenue for the C.B.C. might be to set the necessary revenue for the C.B.C. at a total amount equal to one dollar per head of the Canadian population as determined decennially by the census and estimated each year by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The Commission then recommended:

(1) That the annual licence fee for radio receiving sets be maintained at its present level, but that a more efficient method of collection be devised.

(2) That the total annual income of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for all radio broadcasting purposes other than its International Service be set by statute for five years, and that this income be found from licence fees, from commercial and miscellaneous revenue, and from a payment out of public money sufficient to make up the total statutory income.

The government considers this to be a very wise proposal. It is designed to provide an annual income to the corporation equivalent to \$1 per head of the population. An annual grant would not be appropriate, as it would not allow for the long term planning that is required in this peculiar kind of operation. Many of the program changes, as well as a certain amount of technical change, must be planned at least a year in advance, and it is important that the corporation should be assured of a definite revenue over a five-year period. Of equal importance, as emphasized by the Massey Commission, is the fact that the provision of specific annual statutory grants over a five-year period will free the national system from the possibility of political influence and the uncertainty in determining its annual income which might occur if the system depended upon an annual vote.

Consequently, by section 6 of the bill to grant, to the corporation, out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, a sum of \$4,750,000 for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 1951, and an amount of \$6,250,000 in each of the four next following fiscal years. The sum of \$1,500,000 has already been provided to the corporation as an interim grant in the current fiscal year. Honourable senators will note that the \$1,500,000 already provided for plus the grant of \$4,750,000 makes the total of \$6,250,000, which is the total annual grant proposed. These grants will supplement the income from licence fees and from commercial broadcasting, and it is considered that this will enable the corporation to operate with the degree of efficiency and effectiveness which should characterize this great national public service.

There is no provision under the existing statute for appeal by privately-owned stations from decisions of the Board of Governors of the C.B.C. in administering its regulations. The Massey Commission reviewed this question, and on page 289 of the report stated:

49. We think that there should be some right of appeal. On the one hand, the right should not disturb the C.B.C.'s control of and responsibility for Canadian broadcasting. On the other, it should provide a means whereby substantial injustice could be redressed. We do not wish to limit the existing power of the C.B.C. to regulate broadcasting in Canada, but we feel that the honest and impartial administration of its regulations should be guaranteed by the right of appeal to a Federal Court by persons directly and adversely affected by final decisions of the Board of Governors under those regulations.

Following this observation, the commission recommended:

That persons engaged in radio broadcasting in Canada directly and adversely affected by a final decision of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on any matter in which this Board has final authority be granted the right to appeal to a Federal Court against substantial miscarriage of justice.

To implement this recommendation, an amendment is proposed in the bill which would provide for the right of appeal to the Exchequer Court of Canada by the licensee of a private station on any question of law arising out of the suspension of a licence by the Board of Governors of the C.B.C.

The bill proposes several other minor changes which are advisable in view of changed conditions since the statute was enacted in 1936, and which will also provide for clarification.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that honourable senators have taken the time not only to read but to study the report of the Massey Commission. It is one of the greatest public documents issued in Canada in this century, and I am confident that it will have a far-reaching effect on the cultivation of a distinctively Canadian culture in which we may all take pride. In this development national radio broadcasting has an important place, and for this reason the sections dealing with both sound-broadcasting and television have a serious and important bearing on our consideration of the bill now before us.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable members, I regret that the honourable member for New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) is not in his place.

Hon. Mr. Barbour: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: To use an expression from our part of the country, he has "flown the coop." As he will not be in his place, I