

I myself could not at that time name a date. I told them what the probabilities were, that it would come to this committee, and that this committee might decide it more quickly than anybody else and tell them when we could meet them. They would like to come before us before long. I rather had the idea from their correspondence that their representation would not be a lengthy one.

Mr. Ross (*Hamilton East*): I move that go to the steering committee.

The CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion. Are you ready for the question? Those in favour? Opposed, if any? Carried.

The only other communication of that sort which I have had is from the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. You will recall that a hearing for them has been fixed for next Tuesday at 11 o'clock and 4 o'clock. I have an acknowledging letter thanking us for consideration, and so forth.

There are two other letters here which are expressions of opinion. One of them is from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. It is addressed to me.

May 22, 1947.

Mr. R. Maybank, M.P.,
Chairman, Select Committee on
Radio Broadcasting,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. MAYBANK: At its last meeting the executive committee of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce expressed concern at the mounting criticism of the system of regulating radio broadcasting in Canada. This criticism takes various forms. It is said, for example, that the regulatory powers given by statute to the government and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are too broad; that the publicly owned CBC is both regulator and competitor of the privately owned stations; that the CBC enjoys unreasonable advantages over its privately owned competitors in the way of exemption from taxation and so on; and that the right of free discussion on the air, essential to democracy, is given no legal protection and in practice is being whittled away.

The executive committee appreciates that there must be a degree of control over a medium with such possibilities for good and evil as broadcasting. At the same time we believe that the privately owned stations have an essential role to play and that, in order to fulfil their responsibilities, they must have security of tenure. In no type of enterprise is compulsion and uniformity so dangerous as in the dissemination of information and opinion.

The executive committee suggests that, in the public interest, there should be a thorough, public and non-partisan inquiry into the whole problem of radio broadcasting in Canada, with a view to such legislative and administrative changes as may be found necessary. In particular we believe that consideration should be given to placing radio broadcasting under the jurisdiction of a body independent of both the C.B.C. and the private stations, responsible directly to parliament.

I should be grateful if this letter could be drawn to the attention of your committee.

Yours very truly,

IRVING P. REXFORD,
Vice-Chairman of the Executive.