

Mr. SLAGHT: Then, I would like to indicate to the chairman that I think members of the committee will agree that if there are other regulations then we ought to have copies of them, if they are in existence; that we ought to be furnished with copies of them at this sitting of the committee, sometime to-day.

The WITNESS: Quite so.

The CHAIRMAN: Will you proceed, Mr. Brockington, please.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, I would like at the outset to thank this committee for the opportunity, which presumably is the only opportunity we really have, of giving an account of our stewardship to the listeners of Canada for whom we are the primary trustees, and I take it, for whom parliament is the ultimate trustee.

I would like to say how much all of us regret the absence from this committee of a most courteous gentleman and a generous friend whom we met last year; I refer to the late Mr. Edwards, the member for Waterloo, whose encouragement was an inspiration to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

I would like also to express our pleasure that once again you, sir, are the chairman of this committee; and perhaps I may be permitted to say that in the opinion of those who have been entrusted with the duties of trusteeship in connection with Canadian broadcasting, no one has made, by his enthusiasm, his service and his continued study, a greater contribution to the cause of national ownership than you, in your capacity as chairman not only of this committee but of the two preceding committees.

I would like to thank you, therefore, for the opportunity to give an account of the work which we have done; to tell you that we welcome another occasion on which we can discuss our common problems with you. We hope from the discussion which takes place in this committee that we will receive assistance for the work that lies before us; and I would like to assure you also on behalf of myself and of my fellow governors that we welcome any suggestions for the improvement of the work which is in hand.

Now, I would like to preface what I am going to say with a definite statement of the view which we take of the position which we occupy. One hears sometimes confusing statements; one is also amazed that, in public discussion, the position of the trustees of broadcasting is not always clearly understood. I make this submission as our view of our own position. We are not part of the government of Canada. We are not civil servants, nor part of the civil service. We do not expend, nor are we charged with the expenditure of taxpayers' money except in so far as it may be represented in capital advances made by the Dominion government. We are trustees for the payers of licences. In other words, we are trustees for that class in the community which can be described as licensed listeners. They include people who speak the French language and people who speak the English language; they include Liberals, Conservatives, Social Crediters, members of the C.C.F. party and members indeed of many other organizations, both those which are *in esse* and *in posse*. Our listeners represent the east and the west, the rich and the poor; and for them we are trustees. The government is responsible only for the appointing of this board, and for the specific duties of supervision which has been placed upon the minister and council by the Act which parliament passed. A unanimous parliament is responsible for the Act; for all else we are responsible. We alone are responsible for policy, whether it is bad or good, whether it is wise or unwise. We alone are responsible for all our acts and all our omissions. We are responsible for all the acts and omissions of our administrative officials who, I may say, enjoy our confidence; and for everything which is done the board of governors through me assumes full responsibility and share it with no one.

The board of governors has never been swayed by any consideration, personal, political or partisan. No concessions have ever been granted or refused by this board on personal, partisan or political grounds. I am not aware