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COPY

320 Bay Street, Toronto,
September 2, 1941.

Dear Mr.

I am writing this letter certainly out of no personal ill feeling, but because I think what is to be recited here should be put on the records of the Empire Club, and if not, I desire it for my own records.

Several months ago the Hon. C. D. Howe delivered an address at the Empire Club, Toronto. It was highly eulogistic of the war effort of the Canadian Government and plainly designed throughout to be of political help to the Government of which Mr. Howe is a member. The speech was given a broadcast which I think from memory was Canadian-wide, and was again re-broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Commission the following day. This, I understand, was done at the instance of the Commission and not at the request of the Empire Club.

Because I was convinced that many things Mr. Howe presented as facts were not facts, and that an honest understanding of what really was being done and what was not being done was clearly in the public interest, I decided that I would like to make reply to Mr. Howe's address, before the Empire Club. As you had been long associated with the Club and as you were the only one I knew well on the Executive, I asked to see you and asked you to say to the Executive that, if invited, I would be willing to speak to the Empire Club, at the first convenient regular meeting to be held, on the same subject covered by Mr. Howe, and there to make reply to his assertions. I further added that if the Executive would give me this privilege, I would immediately request the Radio Commission to broadcast the address to the same extent as it had broadcast Mr. Howe's address and on the same terms. I made it clear that if Mr. Howe paid for the broadcasting, I was prepared to do the same.

It is hardly necessary to say that I had no expectation of the Canadian Broadcasting Commission agreeing to broadcast my speech on any terms whatever.

Having heard nothing from you on the subject, I subsequently 'phoned on a couple of occasions to see if the Executive had come to a conclusion. You were not able to give me any encouragement that the Empire Club would act on my suggestion.

The Empire Club evidently decided that its forum could be used only for the purposes of Government speakers and no others, insofar as subjects of crucial moment to the Canadian people were concerned.

The Executive, of course, may have come to the conclusion that I was not a competent party to make reply to Mr. Howe.

Many months have since elapsed, and I have had no communication from you or from the Club in any way.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Arthur Meighen.

AM/E.

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