

Mr. ISNOR: I can only answer that by saying that if certain parties came into power in Canada and had complete control of the radio and there were no private radio stations then they would be in the very same position.

Mr. COLDWELL: I do not know of any political party that proposes that.

Mr. ROSS: I know, but it is possible.

Mr. COLDWELL: The political party with which I am associated believes in a national radio system and believes in the community station as a community station, not as part of a national chain. We have never taken any other position. I do not know the party.

The CHAIRMAN: Is not the fundamental point this, that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation perhaps should not have given to the private stations the rights which they have, rights which they probably should have retained in the interests of the general public? The idea is that having done that they cannot get away from it, but they should put themselves in a position of not extending that privilege any further to other individual stations.

*By Mr. Coldwell:*

Q. We had better ask Dr. Frigon if he does not know of the case in Kingston? What about the case in Kingston where Mr. Davies owning one station bought another, and apparently farmed it out to the Thompson interests?

—A. I did hear that the Thompson organization was running the station for him, presumably on a percentage or straight fee basis, or perhaps some other scheme.

Q. Is that not a violation of the suggestion made in the report of the committee because that does give the Thompson interests another outlet?

—A. The policy of the station is supposed to be controlled by the owner who would be Senator Davies in that case. Mr. Thompson in that case is simply the operator who supplies the personnel, both technical and program, and runs the station as a business. He is not supposed to have any authority on the policy.

Q. He is not supposed to, but is that not rather playing with words? After all the operator really does pretty well control the policy of the station; it cannot be otherwise.—A. If the owner wants to he certainly can stop that. It would be rather unusual to admit that the manager can do as he pleases with a station if it is owned by somebody else.

Q. There is another point arising out of our discussion this morning. The recommendation which was just read says that if necessary we should be supplied, or the board should be supplied, with financial statements of the private radio stations. The C.B.C. as a government-owned and operated organization must present its financial statement here and it is subject to attack by various people who are interested in advertising, and so on. I think the people of Canada ought to have some knowledge of the profits which are made out of a national asset, the air waves. I think that recommendation should be carried out. The corporation should obtain the necessary power if it does not possess it already to order submission of the financial statements of the private radio stations in Canada for review. What do you think of that?—A. Whether it should go to the C.B.C. or the government I am not prepared to say. Maybe the Department of Transport, which issues the licence permits, should be the party to receive such a report if they are to be made available.

Q. I think they should be made available.

Mr. HANSON: I do not think that this committee has any power to make such a recommendation because we have tried in the railway committee to get the trial balance of the C.P.R. but it never could be done. I do not think we can ask for a statement from a privately-owned company to be brought before this committee.