

Mr. McCANN: Yes.

Mr. BLACKMORE: What steps has the government taken to make sure that this is being done?

Mr. McCANN: I do not know that this form of questioning is usual. If the hon. member wishes his questions answered we can answer them without his repeating them the second time. The first question which I have answered is: Is the government endeavouring to give the Canadian people what the Canadian people want over the radio? The answer is, yes.

Next, what measures or steps has the government taken to give the Canadian people what the Canadian people want? They have set up a corporation which is the trustee for the people of Canada as far as radio broadcasting is concerned and have attempted to carry out the wishes of the Canadian people in that regard.

The next was: Does the government mean to establish and maintain freedom of speech in Canada? The answer is, yes.

The next question is: If so, what steps has the government taken?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I should like to have the minister give an answer to the question: What steps has the government taken to bring that about? I wonder if he can tell us what steps the government has in mind whereby it will ask the people in Alberta or western Canada whether they would like to listen to CFCN or C.B.C.?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): The hon. member must not interrupt when the minister has the floor. There is no place for two hon. members to speak at once.

Mr. McCANN: The answer to that question is that C.B.C. keeps in contact with and is informed of what the Canadian public wants with reference to programmes, and tries to meet those conditions.

The hon. member's next question was:

What steps has the government taken to establish and maintain freedom of speech over the radio in Canada?

We are in favour of freedom of speech, but not the abuse of freedom.

The next question was:

Does the government believe that the majority of the people in any given area of Canada—say a province, section of a province, an audience listening to a given local radio station—ought to be guaranteed the right to listen to any speaker or programme of their choice?

There is nothing to interfere with people listening to anything on the radio.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

Another question was:

What steps has the government taken to see that this state of affairs is guaranteed?

The ordinary rights of the ordinary citizen of this country secure that.

The next question was:

What in the minister's opinion ought to be the aim of radio in Canada with respect to entertainment, culture, literary, dramatic or musical, education, enlightenment?

The aim of the corporation so far as programmes are concerned is to give a diversified variety of programmes in education, entertainment, newscasts, sports broadcasts, and information. Freedom is given for the discussion, under regulation, of religious, educational and controversial subjects. That is fairly inclusive, but perhaps not all-inclusive of the various types of programmes offered. The corporation is always glad to hear suggestions from people from one end of the country to the other as to the particular types of programme they prefer. The desires and the needs of people in the agricultural areas particularly are met by farm broadcasts. We have also educational and school broadcasts. It is really a waste of time to go over all this, because the radio committee sat for three months; every phase of its activity was gone into, and there has not been one question asked here since this discussion started that was not fully answered and reported in the minutes of the proceedings of the radio committee, so that I consider it is an absolute waste of our time to have a repetition of this type of question at this stage of the session. I fully recognize the right of anybody to ask questions and shall always be ready to give a fair and polite answer, but, under the circumstances, when everything has been done already to lay before parliament and the people all the information sought in answer to every type of question that could be thought of with reference to radio broadcasting, it is only being repetitious to go over these questions again. However, I will finish giving the answers.

The next question was:

Has the government provided adequate safeguards to prevent the C.B.C. from impairing the strength and efficiency of private radio stations?

C.B.C. simply carries out the Radio Broadcasting Act and the regulations under that act which was passed by the parliament of Canada. That act has been reviewed every year for several years past, and one radio committee after another has endorsed the policies which are being carried out by the broadcasting corporation.