

listeners it is literally a friendly voice. I believe that this station enjoys more popularity than any other; and I would suggest that it has acquired at least some equitable rights on its own wave length. So, although sometimes our opinions differ, I do not for a moment assume that the excellent governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation would act like bandits—if that expression is permissible—or would attempt to confiscate Station CKAC. I contend that the users of that wave-length, through their efforts over a long period of time—longer than the thirty-year period allowed for prescription under our system of law—have at least a moral right to their property.

I had difficulty in following the argument that the air belongs to the Canadian people. The lands in Canada which have not already been granted by various Crowns—in the old days by the French Crown and later the British Crown and today the Canadian Crown—are the property of our people. The air we breathe in Canada belongs to our people and cannot be appropriated. The airways also belong to our people, but from time to time companies such as the TCA or Colonial Airways may obtain flying rights through definite air channels from Montreal, say, to New York. The St. Lawrence river belongs to the Canadian people, and resembles the airways more than anything else because it has an international aspect in that our neighbours to the south have certain rights on the river. The vessels of various shipping companies serve our people on the St. Lawrence, and sometimes those companies obtain the equivalent of franchises.

Honourable senators, I think that a Senate inquiry into this whole problem at some future session would make a most interesting and worth-while contribution to parliament. Our colleague from New Westminster (Hon. Mr. Reid) has made several references to broadcasting problems, but in these final days of the session he is unable to be here to take part in the debate. Rightly or wrongly, I am convinced that it is illogical to have one corporation sit as a judge and decide upon questions which affect not only its own interests as a national broadcasting system but the interests of its competitors.

Under this legislation there is a right of appeal to the Exchequer Court in matters of law, but in my opinion there would be very few questions wholly of law. Generally speaking, the questions would contain an element of law and an element of fact. Let us take for granted that the governors exercise their discretion in a fair way. This does not mean that they cannot err, and of course I think they would be the first to recognize that they are not gifted with infallibility. If

at some future date we set up a committee to study this problem, I would be anxious to make full inquiries about this right of appeal, and to make sure that the body responsible for supervising broadcasting in Canada is set up along the lines of the Board of Transport Commissioners, as was mentioned by the honourable senator from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) this morning.

The honourable senator in his speech made reference to the Massey Report and the cultural aspect of broadcasting. Our colleague from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crenar) also touched upon this subject. This is hardly the proper time for me to make any prolonged statement about culture as dispensed by the C.B.C. and by private stations, but I want to say that we have a French program called Radio-College, which is universally accepted by French radio audiences as one of the outstanding contributions of the C.B.C. It is an excellent program and I have never heard any complaints about it. But educational programs and federal grants to universities do raise vital problems, because the whole question of provincial rights in the field of education becomes involved. I have been a university professor since 1919, and during those years have been teaching—either to my credit or to my debit—

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: To your credit, I would say.

Hon. Mr. Gouin:—and if a committee were set up I would try to freely express my opinion about the cultural aspects of broadcasting.

At the present time I want to address my remarks to certain programs to which strong objection has been taken. I do not like censorship any more than anyone else, and I particularly believe in freedom of speech. Within reasonable limits I am in favour of having all legitimate political parties express their opinions. This is a good thing. The senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. Fogo) said that the presentation of news of a political character was very satisfactory. It is true that complaints have been made from time to time by various parties. Personally I think that neither the Progressive Conservative party nor the Liberal party often got too much from the C.B.C. The broadcasts in English that I have listened to expressed views that generally were rather more to the left than mine, and on the contrary the broadcasts in French were often more to the right than I am. From this I imagine that I am more or less in the centre field.

But even though we are in favour of freedom of speech, as we all are, we certainly agree that there are limits to it. It was said by the senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. Fogo) that a check is imposed on radio stations by the criminal law, the civil law and the law