

Hon. Mr. McCANN: I was never interested in the minutes of the corporation and the administration of it until I became Minister of National War Services on the 18th of April, 1945. I never saw the minutes of the corporation previous to that except in instances when they were brought here before the radio committee of which I was chairman in 1942, 1943 and 1944.

Mr. COLDWELL: May I follow with a supplementary question? Would there be any reference to the three particular stations when under the Canadian Radio Commission in 1933 it was stated that it was the policy to take over the stations that were needed to cover the country, and subsequently on numerous occasions that it was the policy to take over all stations that would be needed by the CBC for its purposes? Would there be any reference to the three particular stations?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: There would not be, no.

Mr. COLDWELL: The policy was comprehensive?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: The policy was comprehensive enough to include what they wanted.

Mr. FLEMING: The government did give approval within the past year to the specific proposal of the board of the CBC to take these three wave lengths. That is correct. Now, did the government consider matters of cost on the part of the CBC in acquiring these wave lengths and putting up of three stations of 50,000 watts?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: Yes, they did.

Mr. FLEMING: Has the financing been considered?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: Yes, it has.

Mr. FLEMING: Is it going to be possible to finance this project, the assumption by the CBC of these wave lengths, without coming to parliament for an appropriation for the purpose?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: It will be necessary to come to parliament and to change the Broadcasting Act so that the borrowing powers of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation can be augmented to such an extent that they may proceed with the developments they have in view, and that they ultimately will pay back that loan to the government as they have done on all occasions.

Mr. FLEMING: That amendment of the Act will be necessary before this project can be carried through to completion?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: Exactly; at least, that will be one method of doing it.

Mr. FLEMING: What do you mean by that?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: If you change the statute and empower the broadcasting corporation to borrow from the government it can be done that way. If it cannot be financed that way other methods would have to be canvassed.

Mr. FLEMING: Such as what?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: I cannot give them to you at the present time.

Mr. FLEMING: I should like to be clear on that.

Hon. Mr. McCANN: I have not canvassed them myself.

Mr. FLEMING: I would like to be clear if we as a parliamentary committee can be assured—because it will make a difference in our report—that before the project is carried through parliament will be asked to give approval to an appropriation or an amendment to the Act in such a form that this will go before parliament.

Hon. Mr. McCANN: I will tell you very frankly that that is the intention.

Mr. FLEMING: At this session?

Hon. Mr. McCANN: Although I have not been at the meetings of this committee, I think it is the intention of Mr. Dunton and Dr. Frigon to outline