

*Supply—Marine—Radio*

the Windsor station, because of the small size of the city could not get sufficient Canadian programs to employ all its time in broadcasting. I believe one station is enough for that city. I think however the committee may rest assured that the radio commission will look into the matter and give satisfaction.

Mr. POULIOT: My point of comparison is that the Border Cities Star and La Patrie may both be newspapers, but the Border Cities Star is a prominent newspaper.

Mr. MITCHELL: I understand that the station in Detroit, to which we are referring, began operations in June.

An hon. MEMBER: Windsor.

Mr. MITCHELL: No, Detroit; why not be fair about it? That is where it is operated from. I am informed upon good authority that seventy-five per cent of the broadcasting from that station is done from a Detroit studio. I understand from an employee of the station that the Windsor station is looked upon merely as a blind.

An hon. MEMBER: A blind pig.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Boot-legging radio.

Mr. MITCHELL: No, there are lots of those in Detroit—or at least there were, anyway. In my opinion this should be a Canadian station. I do not believe we should be merely a convenience at a time when channels on the other side of the boundary line become crowded. We should not permit the very few channels at our disposal to be used for that extra advertising. Those channels should be used for the benefit of the Canadian people. In my view that was the fundamental principle underlying the appointment of the commission in Canada. I do not believe it was ever intended that licence should be granted to a station which had for its chief purpose the dissemination of American advertising. I am not unmindful of the fact that possibly there is more financial gain in the broadcasting of American advertising. However I do not believe there is a great deal of excuse for the conditions which have obtained at Windsor. The station commenced operations in June and the radio commission did not begin its work until October. From June until October they operated with 75 per cent of the material emanating from a studio in Detroit and 25 per cent from a studio in Windsor. If it is to be an American station why not change the call and be frank about it? If it is to be a Canadian station it should be Canadian. I have no sympathy with the people who invested money under those conditions.

[Mr. Duranleau.]

Mr. EULER: Has the commission arrived at the point of putting in force the regulation that only five per cent of the time shall be devoted to advertising? Because I am quite certain that this station is not observing that regulation. Perhaps others are not either.

Mr. DURANLEAU: As my hon. friend knows, it was only in January that the technical member of the radio commission returned from England, where he was studying broadcasting operations, and, as stated this evening, he was not sworn in until, I think, the 15th or 16th of January. I could not say exactly how far the commission is exercising control of Canadian stations as to the five per cent of the time mentioned by my hon. friend. But I know it is preparing to enforce the law. This committee will permit me to add that personally I am of the opinion—and I will discuss the matter with the radio commission,—that the foreign programs handled by any Canadian station should be limited to programs advertising goods actually manufactured in Canada and to non-advertising programs of high quality. That is the view of the minister and of the department, I hope the radio commission will accept and enforce that view even in connection with the broadcasting station at Windsor.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): I heard the Minister of Marine say he was not satisfied with the operation of that station. May I ask if he reported the case to the radio commission?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Oh yes, my information is that the case of that station is in the hands of and under consideration by the commission at the present time.

Mr. EULER: Has a new licence been issued?

Mr. DURANLEAU: The licence will not be renewed before the first of April; they come for renewal on that date. As I told the committee a minute ago, probably some restrictions or conditions will be imposed on that station before the licence is renewed.

An hon. MEMBER: The first of April? Make it the second.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I think the hon. member for East Hamilton put his finger on the important feature, that is the division of air channels as between the United States and Canada. After all, in spite of the enormous amount of air, the available air channels are limited, and in the division between the two countries I understand that the air channels which Canada may use are comparatively