

Mr. HOWE: The cost of collection is decreasing slightly each year, as we sell more licences. It is now, I think, a shade under twenty-six cents; it was twenty-eight cents a year or two ago.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): I notice that under printing and stationery there is an increase from \$11,500 to \$16,500. Could the minister explain that increase of \$5,000?

Mr. HOWE: It is entirely due to the fact that there are more licences; there are more licences to print, that is more books of licences; there are more notices to be sent out. We send out notices twice a year to those who have not paid. Of course we are dealing in millions; a million pieces of paper are required each time we do any of these things.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): Yes, but the amount is increased one hundred per cent. It was \$11,500 the year before and now it is \$16,500.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): A hundred per cent?

Mr. HOWE: Five thousand dollars is not a hundred per cent of \$11,500; it is more like thirty-three and a third per cent.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): Well, almost fifty per cent.

Mr. LAWSON: I should like to have a specific statement from the minister in respect of the following matter. The amount of the licence fee is fixed, as I understand the matter, by order in council, under the Radiotelegraph Act, so that the increase in fee which has been prescribed for the forthcoming year has been fixed by the government by order in council under that act. Will any portion of that increase be expended for the purpose of obliterating interference with private radio receiving sets, or will the whole amount, less cost of collection, be paid to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

Mr. HOWE: Under the broadcasting act we must pay to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation all licence fees collected less cost of collection. I do not know that they use any part of their funds for the removal of interference, but in any event we cannot do so under the present act.

Mr. LAWSON: Then I may take it that no portion of this increase will be spent for the purpose of obliterating interference. Does the minister agree with me that there will be paid, however, out of the consolidated revenue fund, which is raised by general taxation upon

the Canadian people, the sum of \$205,478, as shown by item No. 396, for the obliteration of interference?

Mr. HOWE: That is a correct statement. Under the act passed in 1936 that arrangement is compulsory.

Mr. HEAPS: We are spending more than \$200,000 a year out of government revenue in connection with radio interference. What is the United States government spending for the same purpose?

Mr. HOWE: We have not the figures.

Mr. HEAPS: Would it be possible to get them and put them on the record? Conditions in the two countries may be similar so far as radio interference is concerned, but the conditions under which radio operates are entirely different. I believe the United States government is spending large sums for the purpose of obliterating radio interference. I wonder if the minister could get information in regard to the United States. It would be worth having.

Mr. HOWE: I shall try to get it.

Mr. PELLETIER: At the same time the minister might try to find out what percentage goes towards collecting radio licence fees in the United States.

Mr. HOWE: There are no licences there.

Mr. NEILL: I wish to suggest an improvement in the collection of licence fees. Under the present system licences are on sale at post offices—I am thinking more in terms of country post offices—and in the stores of those who deal in radios. The percentage which the postmaster gets is very small and, with his own duties to attend to, he does not bother to push the sale. The department became aware of that fact and they decided that, instead of putting on a large police force to prosecute those who did not procure their licences, they would put the collection on a percentage basis, getting people to go and hunt up radio owners who had not obtained licences. The idea was a good one. They paid a larger commission, and the system would have worked all right but for the fact that these collectors who are appointed by the government from time to time—political appointments, I suppose—do not find it worth while, so that you can hardly get anyone to take the job. The man who is doing it on commission is naturally keen to push sales and he goes around to radio owners. He goes to one man and tries to sell him a licence and is informed that it has already been got at the post office. The fact is that those who are willing to get their