

Supply—Labour

in times past. I am satisfied that if privately-owned stations were licensed in these areas they could go after some of the listener interest that is now going to the Buffalo station. There have been long delays in dealing with applications by competent applicants who have long experience in the field of radio broadcasting, people who are possessed of adequate financial resources to take the very great risks involved in commencing television operations.

Mr. Chairman, there is a contradiction here in government policy. We can see that if we look at the statement of government policy summed up by the Department of Transport official, Mr. Browne, who was examined by the committee. We were speaking of sound broadcasting, and I will read from page 469 of the committee's proceedings:

You say there is no policy against licensing two or more stations in the same area?

A. There is no government policy which restricts the number of stations, of which I am aware.

Q. In other words, it is not the policy to foster a local monopoly in sound broadcasting?

A. There is no government policy, as I have said, akin to that which at the present time applies in the case of television.

You have a situation there, Mr. Chairman, where with respect to sound broadcasting there is no government policy designed to foster local monopoly in favour of C.B.C. stations or of anyone else. In the case of television broadcasting the way government policy has operated it, up to the present, has been a policy designed to foster local monopoly. Fostering local monopoly, as is crystal clear from the evidence given before the committee, does not hasten the spreading of stations across Canada. The granting of licences to applicants in the areas in which the C.B.C. has chosen to set up its stations would not have the effect of delaying the development of local stations in other areas.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the only result of denying applications for private stations in the areas chosen by the C.B.C. is to create a monopoly. It does not produce any effect other than the creation of a monopoly. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that it is no help to the C.B.C. to set up conditions of local monopoly. So far as the Toronto area is concerned, the result of that policy of keeping out private stations is not helping the C.B.C. It is the big American private station in Buffalo that is obtaining the advantage. Anybody who knows conditions in the Toronto area knows that fact very well.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, let us be sensible about this policy. If the policy announced by the minister on March 30 is sound, then, Mr. Chairman, the time is overdue for the application of that policy and the licensing of

private Canadian stations in those metropolitan areas so they may go out and compete with American television that is being beamed into those areas.

Mr. Nowlan: Before the item carries, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister a question. He has stated that it is proposed to erect a television station in Halifax in the near future. Has a decision been made as to its location?

Mr. McCann: No; no decision has been made.

Mr. Nowlan: I would like to say, as the minister knows, that Halifax is surrounded by a range of hills and that any station that is built in Halifax would not be able to serve the rest of the province. But if the minister were to go farther afield and erect a station on the hills out of Halifax he might find a location which would serve the city of Halifax, the valley, Colchester and other parts of the province.

Mr. McCann: It may well be that while the station would be in Halifax the transmitter would be up on the highest point. It will certainly be put at a point that will serve Halifax and the greatest possible area.

Mr. Nowlan: Covering as much as possible of the province?

Mr. McCann: Yes.

Mr. Fleming: I have just one remark about the international shortwave service. The plan to include the Polish language in the languages in which broadcasts are beamed to Europe is warmly welcomed by all. The item in the supplementary estimates which is designed to make provision for the inclusion of the Polish language among other languages will, I am sure, command the warm support of all members of the house.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

179. Departmental administration, \$613,375.

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Chairman, I would like to have made a statement when introducing my estimates and, for quite a long time, I have had one ready. As the evening has gone on I have stroked out large sections of it. Even at this late hour I would like to make a few remarks.

The estimates are divided into two main categories: (a) votes required for activities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labour proper; and (b) votes required for operations under the Unemployment Insurance Act. I shall take the Department of Labour first. Speaking of this department gives me an opportunity to express appreciation for