

*Canadian Policy on Broadcasting*

details of the ownership of private broadcasting stations including CFCM-TV, Quebec city.

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Chairman, could we know when it was tabled in the house and could the minister send me a copy?

[English]

**Miss LaMarsh:** As I say, it was tabled on May 4, 1966.

[Translation]

**Mr. Grégoire:** Could we have a copy, Mr. Chairman?

[English]

**Miss LaMarsh:** I will be happy to send my copy to the hon. member.

**Mr. Cowan:** In rising this afternoon to speak on this proposed broadcasting bill I can tell you, Mr. Chairman and members of the House of Commons, that I do so with a heavy heart. I consider myself a Liberal. Some people call me a Liberal of the Liberals. I have been working on behalf of Liberal policies and Liberal positions for over 40 years and I did not play an inactive part in the editorial stand taken by the *Toronto Star* on many matters.

I am one of the privileged men of this country in that I was able to enjoy a close association with the late Joseph E. Dickinson, publisher and editor of the *Toronto Star* to the date of his death in 1948, and if there is anyone in this house who wishes to question the Liberal antecedents of the *Toronto Star* I am here to answer him.

It is true that the *Toronto Star* took a stand with regard to Liberal policy in 1917 and that the *Star* proved to be right, even if it did support a unionist government. It was Liberal in its viewpoint, Liberal in its stand. The *Toronto Star* broke with declared Liberal policy provincially in 1937 during the provincial election and it was never more right than it was in its stand at that time. I happened to be in Oshawa when the late Mr. Hepburn, so-called Liberal prime minister of Ontario, declared he intended to devote the rest of his life to keeping the Congress of Industrial Organizations out of Canada. The *Toronto Star* broke with Mr. Hepburn over that question and I could not have agreed with that stand more.

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I have taken part in every election campaign provincially since 1919 when I scrutinized for the late George A. Gillespie, Liberal candidate for re-election in Peterborough that year. I cast my first Liberal vote in Toronto in the early twenties upon reaching the age of 21. I voted C.C.F. in the days when Hepburn was premier.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but I was under the impression that he was leading up to a speech on the broadcasting bill, clause 2 of which is presently before the committee.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairman, I am anxious to find out whether this is Liberal doctrine. In my opinion it is not. There are two features of this bill which I cannot and will not support and I intend to elucidate them, I assure you, before I finish.

I have in my hand Bill C-163. I could not disagree with anything more than I disagree with certain of these clauses. We have clause 2 before us now but I know that at this time we are allowed considerable freedom to discuss the bill generally before we go into it clause by clause and phrase by phrase. I cannot subscribe to clause 47, and I will say so long before we even get to it. I was hoping the country as a whole would make its views known on this aspect of the bill.

Clause 47(2) reads:

(2) Upon the coming into force of the Act and every fifth year thereafter, the Corporation shall submit to the Minister an operating budget for the next ensuing five financial years of the Corporation for approval by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister and the Treasury Board, and the Minister shall lay before Parliament each such operating budget of the Corporation as approved by the Governor in Council within fifteen days after the approval thereof or, if Parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first fifteen days next thereafter that Parliament is sitting.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Order. I would point out that we are not discussing clause 47. The clause under study is clause 2 of the broadcasting bill.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairman, I believe we are discussing a bill designed to implement a broadcasting policy for Canada and I presume that clause 47 is part of that broadcasting policy for Canada as set out in this bill. If you wish me to drop discussion of clause 47 at this time I will gladly do so and move on to the second feature of this bill which I