

think either would be a good position to take exclusively. I do say, however, that as respects the time of the house as well as the business and the procedure of the house generally, where we have a committee for the purpose of dealing with any subject, questions should be asked and information elicited in the committee rather than by means of questions and motions on the order paper. There may be some questions which hon. members would like to have answered immediately, but where there is a committee of the house dealing with a subject, as there will be with respect to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, I should think that information should be sought in the committee rather than by questions on the order paper.

Mr. COLDWELL: The Prime Minister's suggestion with reference to this question underlines the question I asked the Minister of National War Services (Mr. LaFleche). It raises the whole matter of the status of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. That was the purpose of my question to the Minister of National War Services and I am anxious to see the position clarified. As I understood the Prime Minister's remarks they implied, to me at any rate, that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is now regarded as a department of government, whereas I have always understood that it was a free and independent corporation and therefore had not the same standing as departments of government with regard to correspondence between a minister of the crown and officials of the corporation. That is the point I had in mind when I asked the question.

Mr. GRAYDON: I was about to make an observation similar to that of the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell). I was amazed to hear the Prime Minister, in reference to this question suggest that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation had the same status as a department of government. Those of us who have made some study of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's structure realize that it is half and half, so to speak, partly a department of government and partly a public corporation. As I understand, it is in some respects like the Canadian National Railways while in other respects it is not. One of the recommendations of the radio broadcasting committee last year was that this anomalous position of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should be clarified, and I hope the government will do something about it.

The Prime Minister is not on solid ground when he argues that in a matter of this kind communications between the minister of the crown responsible and officials of the Canadian

Broadcasting Corporation should be in any way privileged. If we are to take the government's view, as outlined so many times, that this is a free and independent corporation, then it seems to me that there cannot possibly be privilege as between a minister of the crown and a free and independent corporation such as this is supposed to be.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend's description of this corporation as being partly one thing and partly the other is, I think, fairly accurate with regard to the view of the situation as it stands at the present time. It was for that reason that I made my remarks quite general and indicated that, while there might be some information which the government would be prepared to give immediately, there was other information which should properly be brought out only before the committee appointed to deal with matters affecting the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Certainly it is not the government's view that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is a department of government. It is not; it is a separate corporation. It is, however, a corporation with respect to the affairs of which the government is of the opinion that a committee of this house may be appointed to discuss. There is that difference. The fact that we are having a committee on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation makes clear that it is in a different category, vis a vis the house, from other corporations.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the pleasure of the house?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Subject to what has been said.

Motion agreed to.

RADIO BROADCASTING—SPEECHES OF MEMBERS OR POLITICAL LEADERS

Mr. CARDIFF:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, or other documents exchanged between any member of the board of governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation or any official of the said corporation and any other person, since March 31, 1942, with respect to the broadcasting of speeches of any member of the government or of any leader or representative of any political party.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This is information that might be brought out before the committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, dropped.