

The WITNESS: I am glad you raised that point, sir. The inference to be taken from my remarks is nothing of that kind. The inference to be taken from my remarks is this: that broadcasting hours cover a certain period per day; that it is essential as a part of good broadcasting that there will be sustaining programs during a number of hours; that it is absolutely impossible for private stations with limited resources in areas where talent is limited to make any such contribution to sustaining programs as we make for them, and that eventually without good sustaining programs and talent to retain their listeners they could not continue to function. That is what I mean.

Mr. BERTRAND: Even in Montreal there are private stations that would like to have sustaining programs.

Mr. EDWARDS: That is well understood by everybody.

The WITNESS: I would think so, sir.

Mr. TURGEON: I do not object to the Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation—in fact I encourage—making a general statement of that nature, so that the members of the committee will have a clear idea of not only what the Broadcasting Corporation is doing, but the effect of the Corporation's actions upon radio generally in the country. But I do not think that we ought to encourage the Broadcasting Corporation, which is set up after all, more or less as an agency of government, to make statements to the effect that a certain number of privately operated companies could not continue in operation without the co-operation of the Broadcasting Corporation. I think it is going too far for us even to encourage that here. I certainly want to make that clear, because the same thing may come up on other questions. I am not taking any objection to general information which we should have properly to consider the questions before us. I am not objecting to the newspapers having general statements of that kind; I am objecting to the particular one that certain private corporations could not carry on without assistance from the Broadcasting Corporation. I am objecting to having this committee of parliament the medium of forcing an expression of that nature from the Corporation; that is all.

Hon. Mr. LAWSON: It is an amazing statement to make that a committee appointed by parliament to inquire into certain matters can accept a general statement and cannot get a specific answer to a question. It is the most amazing principle I have ever heard.

Mr. DUPUIS: It is very amazing to me to see the hon. member from Toronto trying to—

Hon. Mr. LAWSON: I do not represent Toronto.

Mr. DUPUIS: It is very near. It is always amazing to me to find the hon. member trying to find fault at all times.

Mr. HAMILTON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a remark, and that is this: It seems to me it would be unfair to give as a matter of opinion something affecting private stations, purely as a matter of opinion, without any facts, and then sending that out to the Dominion of Canada without any details, and without giving that group or body the opportunity to try to refute the statement.

Hon. Mr. LAWSON: May I ask my hon. friend this? Does he think it is fair for a general statement to go out through Canada that the private stations could not exist without the help of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

Mr. HAMILTON: I think it would be unfair to designate any one station or group of stations by name, and let that statement go out through Canada. While I am on my feet may I say this: in connection with this matter I am anxious to get some information in regard to it. The reason I asked the question with reference to political broadcasting is that I am interested in it. I think it is only fair to realize that the C.B.C. is competing to some extent with private enterprise, and to some extent possibly subsidizing private stations through