

**Mr. Smallwood** I am sure Major Cashin will admit that apart from any quarrelling on the matter of censorship they do seem to be flourishing, and they should not have any trouble in borrowing from the government or anyone.

**Mr. Cashin** I don't suppose they will have any trouble as long as the surplus lasts!

**Mr. Job** That's absolutely apart from the government, it is a public corporation?

**Mr. Smallwood** Yes.

**Mr. Job** The people of Newfoundland have a share of it, I suppose?

**Mr. Smallwood** Yes.

**Mr. Hollett** What happens at the end of 25 years. When the capital is paid off, where does the ownership lie then?

**Mr. Smallwood** The unpaid balance of that original advance of \$84,000? They are paying that off regularly and at the end of 25 years it will be all paid off and they will still own it. It may not be the same Board of Governors, but they will own it as they own it now, as the trustees of the Newfoundland people.

*[The Secretary continued reading the report]*

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Chairman, the only appendix to this report gives the number of radio receiving sets in the country, reasonably supposed to be in operation in Newfoundland and Labrador from January 1, 1937 to December 31, 1945. And then secondly a table showing the number of sets upon which the licence fees were paid from January 1, 1937 to December 31, 1945. There is quite a difference in the figures, showing that there have been quite a number of owners of radio sets not paying their licenses....

I would like to underline the paragraph on page 5, which reads as follows: "There is one matter upon which the committee feels that it must express its disappointment ... etc." You have in St. John's and in Corner Brook and Grand Falls (where there are to be stations) and also Gander, various organizations, not government departments, but the MCLI,<sup>1</sup> the Patricians and Holy Cross, the Llewellyn Club,<sup>2</sup> trade unions and the co-operative movement (that movement is making good use of the Corporation), but there are a lot of other corporations, and they are open to give free the use of their facilities for forums

and round table conferences for formulating public opinion. I think that too much publicity cannot be given to that fact. We were informed that their rules down there (in the paragraph on page 4) are as follows, it says: "However the Corporation is prepared to give free time, on the basis of equality, to reputable persons who wish to discuss ... etc." I think that refers to individuals, not organisations, and I believe the rule is this: former cabinet ministers, and, I believe, former members of the Legislative Council, are, according to the rule laid down by the Corporation, permitted to have one and a half hours, or three half-hour broadcasts, no charge made, subject to the right of the Corporation to edit the contents of the broadcast.

**Mr. Cashin** The censorship by Mr. Williams!

**Mr. Smallwood** I am speaking strictly to the report. Their right is to edit the script, also to submit it to their solicitor for his opinion on any statement which may appear to be libelous or defamatory. Former cabinet ministers and members of the House of Assembly can have apparently equal time. And the same with members of the upper house. I want to emphasise for the benefit of people who may be listening in to-night (if anyone does listen to these broadcasts) that the Corporation is there to give the use of their station free for the discussion of public affairs.

**Mr. Hollett** Is that true of VOCM?

**Mr. Smallwood** It is general knowledge that VOCM has been very generous also in the use of its time and in the latitude it allows speakers on public affairs.

**Mr. Jackman** Are they prepared to give VOCM the same facilities as VONF, on educational matters?

**Mr. Smallwood** I am sure that Mr. Jackman does not suppose that the Broadcasting Corporation has anything to do with broadcasts on VOCM, or with the personnel of that station. I don't think they interfere at all. The dispute with VOCM and the Broadcasting Corporation has to do only with VOCM's request to increase their power and stations, it is not with regard to what they shall or shall not broadcast.

**Mr. Jackman** I cannot agree with the excuse given by the government for turning down the

<sup>1</sup>Methodist College Literary Institute.

<sup>2</sup>The MCLI, Patricians, Holy Cross Literary Association and the Llewellyn Club were St. John's societies that sponsored debates, lectures and discussions.