

legal talent and submitted my manuscript to be scrutinised. I contacted the manager of VONF and told him I wanted to deliver a talk. He told me it depended on the topic and nature of the talk, whether or not I would be allowed to speak. I was advised four or five days afterwards that he regretted that after consulting the Board he could not allow me to deliver the address. He said I was far too critical of Commission of Government. In view of that, I cannot accept the second paragraph on page 4 as a statement of fact. I congratulate those responsible for this report. I move that the report be received.

Mr. Harrington Before the report is received, I would like to make a few comments. I have been broadcasting quite a while and I feel I would be remiss if I had not something to say. I have no quarrel with the Broadcasting Corporation. I have said a few hard things about Commission of Government and I have not been rapped over the knuckles. The comments I would like to make are in connection with the staff. On page 1 — 1 chief operator; 1 operator. These are employed at the studio, and as far as I know they are at Mount Pearl. It had struck me for quite a while that the Corporation is understaffed. A broadcasting station is not like a government department where you go in and see a lot of staff. Some people get the idea there is not much work to be done. Take, for instance, Mr. House, he is chief operator and is at this moment recording this broadcast. When it is all worked out on the basis of time, they really have a lot of work to do. We should particularly pay tribute for the way in which it is covering the Convention and it takes a lot of their time, particularly the operators.

Mr. Ballam I would like to say, as Mr. Harrington has done, that we should at this time pay a little tribute to the Broadcasting Corporation. I agree with Mr. Jackman, if it could be done, we on the west coast would like to see VOCM's output increased. We do not get them and very seldom VONF. We are fortunate in having VOWN; the service they are giving is good. I understand from the report that they are increasing the wattage in Corner Brook, and you people in here might have the opportunity of listening to us. I agree we should offer a vote of thanks to the broadcasting station.

Mr. Higgins My main reason for rising was to refer to the paragraph under discussion. It is

refreshing that for the first time since the House opened, Mr. Smallwood admitted there is something he is not fully competent to discuss. I do not intend to give an opinion, because it might be suggested that it might be biased due to my association with one of the Board of Governors. As the opinion is held by some members that VOCM is entitled to more power for their station, why not have the Committee make enquiries outside as to the rightness or wrongness of the explanation given by the Broadcasting Corporation?

Mr. Smallwood The first thing we did was to ask Mr. Butler to appear. He stated his case before the Broadcasting Corporation stated theirs. We knew nowhere else to go. We would need technical information in order to be able to assess the technical explanation that the Broadcasting Corporation gave us. I would like to join with Mr. Harrington and Mr. Ballam in the words they have uttered about the gratitude of this Convention to the Corporation, for broadcasting the debates; not only to going to considerable expense, because it does cost money, but re-arranging their whole time from 9.15 each night until around midnight. I know the whole country is listening and that is giving value to the Convention deliberations and debates, a value it could not possibly have otherwise. Tens of thousands who have to vote on the kind of government they want, would have no way of knowing the facts upon which we are basing our recommendations, and upon which they perhaps will base their voting for the referendum. The Corporation should know how grateful we feel to them and I am disappointed we have not been hearing it from all sides of the house.... A feeling has grown up that the Convention is lying on its oars and loafing. There are nine committees; three of them have so far reported; six others have yet to report. Here is one of 143 pages foolscap and I am sure the Finance Committee will bring in 200 to 300 pages. That is not done without hard work....

Mr. Butt I wonder if the Committee asked the Broadcasting Corporation how far they were prepared to go in cutting commercial advertising in order to arrange their time to give individuals or other bodies the opportunity to broadcast.

Mr. Smallwood The answer is simple. A broadcasting station arranges some of its programmes as much as a year in advance.... In connection