

request for VOCM to enlarge its broadcasting facilities. It is an excuse for dictatorship. VOCM today is the most popular radio station in Newfoundland. If we could take a poll we would find 90% of our people listen in to VOCM more so than VONF, and in the report it says the government is not going to give VOCM a chance to expand. I do not think it is right. It is about all we have left in our country — the air. Now they are trying to take that away. They are going to set up a station in Grand Falls, and possibly one in Bell Island. What sort of propaganda are they going to give us? This country owes a tribute to VOCM; if we did not have VOCM, we would not have this National Convention today. I think this Convention should protest against the dictatorial attitude of the government in trying to take all we have left. There should be some public policy to make the government give VOCM a chance to expand; it is what the people want — the facts and truth.

Mr. Hollett I come from a part of this country where we rarely hear VOCM and it is only since I have been in St. John's I have been privileged to listen in to it, and I am thoroughly in accord with Mr. Jackman. I cannot swallow the excuse given by the Broadcasting Corporation for not allowing VOCM to increase power from 250 to 1000 watts in view of the fact that the Broadcasting Corporation are planning to increase the power of their station here in St. John's and erect another station in Grand Falls (1000 watts) and another in Corner Brook (1000 watts). I believe there is something more in this refusal than first strikes the eye. I would ask Mr. Smallwood if the Committee enquired as to what manner this increasing of VOCM from 250 to 1000 watts would contaminate or obliterate the air waves over this country?

Mr. Smallwood The report says the Committee felt considerable sympathy for VOCM and for Mr. Butler. Whether strict observance of that ruling has the effect of making it impossible for VOCM power to be increased is a matter upon which I am not competent to pass judgement.

Mr. Hollett Did you enquire?

Mr. Smallwood We did, as far as our own competence allowed us. When you get into a technical matter, you have to know what kind of

questions to ask, to have the knowledge to tell you whether the answer is scientifically correct. If the Convention will retain the services of a high-class radio technician, he could give you the answer. We cannot.

Mr. Bailey I whole-heartedly agree with the Broadcasting Corporation and I think the time has come to get the broadcasting station back under the people. I was in hospital for a month and in the next bed to me was one of the leading radio technicians in the world — Mr. Galgay — he explained the whole thing to me and I followed closely. The Broadcasting Corporation is all right.... The only thing we have to do is get control of the country, and of the broadcasting and own one valuable thing.

Mr. Ashbourne I would like to pay tribute to those who compile, at no doubt considerable expense, and furnish to the broadcasting companies the various news bulletins given to the public free of charge. These bulletins are appreciated in the city of St. John's and especially in those outports where no daily newspapers are immediately available. I mention the Gerald S. Doyle news bulletin¹ and the bulletin supplied by Messrs Harvey and Co.² VOCM is not very much heard in Twillingate, probably on account of lower power. I see no reason why they should not receive permission to increase their power. The weather forecasts, news regarding steamer movements, railway freights, are of great moment to the people who live in the outports. In St. John's we can buy a newspaper twice a day and see when various steamers are accepting freight; when trains are leaving; get weather forecasts; but to the fisherman who has to get up early in the morning and go out it is a great satisfaction to have some idea as to what the weather is likely to be on the following day. I would like to bring to the attention of the government, the matter of considering that radio batteries be admitted into Newfoundland duty free. All you have to do in St. John's is plug in the socket by which the electric light is given. Very few people in the outports enjoy that privilege.

Mr. Vardy When this report was being read I was like Major Cashin, but I decided to hold on until it was fully read. In 1937 I prepared a half-hour talk to deliver, and went to the best

¹This radio programme, consisting of news and public service announcements, commenced in 1932.

²Harvey and Co., one of Newfoundland's oldest merchant houses.