

with this broadcasting of these proceedings, they have cancelled everything after 9.15 at night. Not only are we grateful to the Corporation but also to the commercial firms whose programmes have got to be cancelled in order to make way for what we think is more important — the discussion of public affairs.

Mr. Butt If you have commercial advertising there is a certain rigidity about those programmes which cannot be offset, unless you ask the people who control them and they are pleased to do it (and I am not doubting that they are). I want to know how far the Broadcasting Corporation are prepared to go in lessening revenue from commercial purposes so that they can facilitate the broadcasting of other affairs....

Mr. Smallwood It seems strange for Mr. Butt to be directing that question at me, because he is as well able to answer that question as I am.... In connection with the large number of radio sets on which no payment was made in 1944, the answer is that during the war it became just about impossible to get radio sets, and in many cases radio tubes and other spare parts, the result was that throughout the country there came, by the end of the war, to be a very large number of radio sets which actually were not in use and so I suppose, with some degree of humanity, postmasters throughout the island did not collect the fees on unused radio sets. I think that's the explanation.

Mr. Miller I am somewhat disappointed about the manner in which this report is being covered by the House. Very good points have been overlooked, and we are making useless remarks. Our business today is as serious as it will be later on. There was a good point made by Major Cashin, concerning the erection of broadcasting stations at St. John's, Corner Brook, Gander, and Grand Falls. I can't guess the amount these outlays might total. I might say a quarter of a million dollars. Not worth our consideration this afternoon? We may be asked to spend that in three or four years time. It is well worth our consideration, and further this report should deal with the business basis of the Broadcasting Corporation. I think it is incomplete because it has not got it here. I cannot form an opinion whether the Broadcasting Corporation will be an asset or a liability to the future of Newfoundland. I want to know. That's what I am here for — more about the assets and liabilities of the future. This report

has not got it and I am disappointed. The Committee ought to have investigated the rates we charge compared with the rates they charge in Canada, find out if there are any privileges given on this broadcasting station, whether some people are getting special rates, etc. General routine work, but it is not in the report. I do agree with Mr. Hollett and others who made mention of VPCM. That station is not heard in my district, or very rarely, and that is only 84 miles away. I cannot take Mr. Smallwood's explanation when he says that VPCM could find no place on the air. Has the air, that is the channels of broadcasting, reached a saturation point? Must we think that the United States and Canada will have to go down to these lower frequencies and less power? We are not driving a hard enough bargain, and VPCM is getting a raw deal. At the same time I am not so greatly concerned over that, but I am that we have not got the facts in dollars and cents.

Mr. Smallwood As the report states, the balance sheet of the Broadcasting Corporation is published annually in the public accounts, the report of the Auditor General, and in considerable detail. I brought along the balance sheet for each of the last three years, but we have them running back 14 or 15 years.

Mr. Cashin 16 years.

Mr. Smallwood For each of these 16 years the annual balance sheet was published in considerable detail. It is fairly simple, and it seems they have been making from \$12,000 to \$25,000 a year profit. It does not look like they would ever be a liability. If the number of people with radio sets and licence fees and the sale of time on the air should fall off, then their income will fall, and they might have a deficit. I don't think we need to look upon them as a liability in the future. The other point is one that I have so much sympathy for myself that I don't want to be jockeyed into the position of standing here defending the Broadcasting Corporation. I am not responsible for the explanation of this, we are only repeating honestly the explanation given to us by the Broadcasting Corporation, admitting our inability to assess its validity. It sounds genuine and we are not competent to question it. Mr. Miller, please don't blame us for that explanation. Mr. Chairman if all the gentlemen are through and there is no further comment I move that the