

and Communications Committee, entitled "Gander Airport" be received.

*[The motion carried. The committee of the whole rose, and the Convention adjourned]*

December 12, 1946

**Report of the Transportation and Communications Committee:<sup>1</sup>  
Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Smallwood** I suggest to the House that this afternoon we take up the section of the report dealing with broadcasting. Perhaps Mr. Secretary would read the section on broadcasting.

*[The report was read as far as the second paragraph on page 4]*

**Mr. Cashin** I cannot let that go. That statement, "We are aware also of the existence, at least amongst some members of the public, of a belief that free speech is limited on the Corporation's stations, and that censorship is exercised over broadcasting by the Corporation. The point was put bluntly to the Chairman and General Manager of the Corporation, and in denying categorically the existence of any limitation of free speech or of censorship they explained the Corporation's policy fully and answered freely any questions we cared to put." That statement is a deliberate falsehood. In denying that there is censorship, the Chairman of the Corporation was lying and lying deliberately.

**Mr. Chairman** You must not indulge in personalities.

**Mr. Cashin** He was making a false statement. I want to tell the Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation that manuscripts were taken out of the broadcasting house to be censored. I have proof. I am sorry I did not bring a manuscript to show where certain things were cut out which they claimed were libelous because they reflected on the Commission of Government. The Railway would not take an action against the Broadcasting Corporation, which is owned and controlled by the government. If a statement was made regarding certain things that went on in the Railway which the Broadcasting Corporation said was libelous, well then, if they allowed it to go over the air would the Railway take an action against the Broadcasting Corporation? Certainly not. They would be going to law with themselves, and that is not sensible. But the Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation has had a man ready to

go on the air and has censored his speech and cut out half of it and brought it back to him half an hour before he had to go on the air. That same statement that they cut out has been made over VOCM and there was no libel action taken against them. The broadcasting station is a tool of the Commission of Government, and they have been using it as such for the past 18 months. I know whereof I speak and I could not let this thing go without expressing an opinion.... Anyway it will have to come before the Finance Committee and we will have to bring Mr. Williams<sup>2</sup> up and he can say it to my face, because he knows it is false. I told him so in the broadcasting house, and I had to chase him all around the town to do it.

*[The Secretary continued reading the report]*

**Mr. Cashin** May I be permitted to turn back to page 3, subsection 1, where it says: "To erect a suitable building ... etc." Where are they going to find that building, and how much will it cost?

**Mr. Smallwood** A little further up on the same page you will see that at the end of 1945 the Corporation's current assets amounted to \$75,000, consisting of \$68,000 cash, which amount included \$9,800 accounts receivable, which have since been collected. In other words, at the end of 1945 they had cash on hand of roughly \$68,000. You will notice a little further on in this report, they have been making \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year, in fact it was up around \$26,000 last year. I suppose what they intended to build the broadcasting house out of is their current assets, perhaps even getting a loan for the balance from the government. We did not ask what it was going to cost or exactly where it was to come from.

**Mr. Cashin** They also say they are going to build a broadcasting station at Grand Falls, and take over the RCAF station at Gander. In my opinion they won't get far unless they go to the government for the balance of the money.

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:119.

<sup>2</sup>George Williams, Chairman of Board of Governors of the Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland.