

## Reply to the Fallow Brief concerning French Radio in Alberta

The French Canadian Association of Alberta in a previous communique has already drawn attention to the **misleading brief filled with inaccuracy and prejudice presented by The Honourable Mr. Fallow**. We believe it opportune to mention again this subject and to add new corroborative evidence to establish the true facts. Mr. Fallow having judged it necessary to resort to grossly erroneous assertions and to racial prejudice, it will be understood that we are justified in making this reply to unmask his dishonest methods.

### False Statements

In the very first paragraph of the Fallow brief a false statement is found with reference to the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on March 27, 1945 with regard to radio. The brief recites that the resolution of the assembly was adopted "without dissenting voice". Mr. Fallow falsely gives the impression that there was a unanimous vote on his motion.

How can he affirm that there was no dissenting voice when there was in fact no recorded vote? The votes and proceedings of the Legislature, No. 24, for the year 1945 read expressly "a debate follows", "the debate continued and finally **Mr. Speaker declared the motion as amended carried**".

The next day the Edmonton Bulletin wrote as follows: "The amended resolution passed on a voice vote, a few opposition members voting against".

Is this what Mr. Fallow calls "without a dissenting voice"?

### Mr. Maynard's Opposition

On the same day, March 28th, the English speaking dailies of Edmonton reported Hon-

ourable L. Maynard's pronouncement during the debate:

"Throughout the British Empire there is a multiplicity of languages, declared Honourable Maynard, K.C., Attorney General. Canada has two official languages, English and French; South Africa has two, English and Dutch, while India has as many as one hundred and twenty-six among them the English language. Because Great Britain was ready to recognize the diversity of languages, we have the British Empire as it stands today.

I ask the members of this House not to be more British than the British themselves".

Where then is the unanimity mentioned by Mr. Fallow when even a Cabinet Minister expressed himself against the resolution being debated.

According to the same daily newspaper another Social Credit member Mr. Tomyne, who took part in the debate, stated he "resented any resolution which would restrict the right of any individual to think, speak or write any language".

When Mr. Fallow tries to make us believe that perfect unanimity surrounded his resolution, and when he writes expressly that it was adopted "without a dissenting voice", he departs from the truth. What value has a brief based on such assertions?

### A Second Falsehood

A little further in his brief, Mr. Fallow states that the plan for a French radio in Alberta has occasioned numerous protests and unfavourable comment in the press. What is the source of the numerous protests mentioned by Mr. Fallow? And what are the press commentaries?

With very few exceptions the only ones to protest in 1947 as in 1945, were the Baptist

Church, the Protestant League and the Protestant Ministerial Associations.

Referring to the comments from the press, even where the English press is concerned they are, throughout the country, favourable to the French minority in Alberta. Among them there are the following newspapers: Montreal Gazette, Montreal Daily Star, Toronto Saturday Night, Sherbrooke Daily Record, Quebec Chronicle Telegraph.

A very few newspapers, among them the Edmonton Bulletin have manifested their usual dislike of French.

We do not hesitate to affirm that the sane opinion in the country is united in disapproving the Fallow brief. The Social Credit Minister is not speaking truthfully when he claims the contrary. He has in support only the opposition of a few Protestant sects and a small number of fanatical newspapers. This fact in itself is significant and illuminating as to the value of the Fallow brief.

Let us now consider the arguments invoked by Mr. Fallow in his brief. He summarizes them himself under three headings: The preservation of National Unity; The danger of "balkanizing" the Province; The refusal of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to grant a commercial license to the Alberta Government.

#### National Unity

Mr. Fallow is opposed to a French Radio station on the grounds of National Unity. He scorns the essentially bilingual character of our country; he speaks of National Unity "irrespective of national origin", in other words disregarding the rights of one of the great races in Canada. This narrowness of mind of the Social Credit Minister is akin to that of the Protestant ministers who appeared before the Board of Governors of the C. B. C. and received a well deserved reprimand from Mr. Chase, himself an English speaking Protestant: "Surely, surely, surely, we have got to look beyond race and religion".

The answer to Mr. Fallow can also be found in the opinion of his own English speaking compatriots: "It is not right, it is even insult-

ing, for anyone to claim that French enjoys no special privileges in our country" (Montreal Star). "It would be open to vigorous protest should the Governors (of the C.B.C.) give any weight to the manufactured contentions of certain clerics that the new radio stations would be a menace to National Unity" (Montreal Gazette).

We can multiply similar testimonials. We can also point to the French station in St. Boniface, which, far from destroying National Unity, serves admirably the cause of mutual understanding and is received enthusiastically by thousands of English Canadians in Manitoba. Confronted by the above facts it is clear that Social Creditor Fallow's phobias do not stand up.

#### Rights of the French Minority

Mr. Fallow is opposed to French radio in Alberta because he says it would open the door to similar demands by all the other minorities in the Province. He emphasizes the small proportion of the French group in this Province; 43,000 out of 800,000. In a word he places the French element of the country on the same basis as Negroes and Chinese.

This reveals a gross ignorance of our past, our history, our constitution. The Chronicle-Telegraph in an editorial of September 22nd last, has squarely answered this claim of Mr. Fallow's.

"The present constitutional situation, in short, is that not only does no one citizen, whether French or English enjoy any superiority over any other but that absolute security is conceded and guaranteed to minority rights, both French and English. Since the rights which a citizen enjoys in one part of the country can hardly be denied to or taken away from him in another part of it, even under pretext of the exercise of local autonomy, we suggest that a law barring bilingualism is morally, if not legally ultra vires of the Legislature of either Alberta or Saskatchewan."

#### The Alberta Station

Finally Mr. Fallow places great emphasis on the fact that the C.B.C. has refused to

grant a commercial license to station CKUA, which is the property of the Alberta Government.

The Alberta Government is at perfect liberty to apply for a commercial license for its radio station. We are not concerned with any quarrel between the Social Credit Government and the Federal Government on this subject. To use the words of Mr. Dunton, General Manager of the C.B.C. "it is out of our hands".

But one fact is certain; the question of French radio is one thing and the matter of a commercial license for Alberta is an entirely different one, and each should be decided upon its own merits.

Mr. Fallow has endeavoured to confuse the issues. He claims that the Federal Government must not grant a license to any station until it has given one to the Provincial Government station. If that were the case, and the Federal Government refuses to meet the wishes of the Provinces, the result will be that not one single license should be granted in the country. Surely an absurdity!

Mr. Fallow is fully entitled to defend his point of view but let him do so on his own ground. If he believes that he has suffered injustice let him not resort to injustice as a remedy and refuse to the French element of Alberta the right to own its own station.

The injustice is all the more crying when one considers that there are in Alberta eight English radio stations, while the French population, with equal rights, must turn to the Watrous station in Saskatchewan for a very few French programs each day.

In a word, Mr. Fallow's argument is an appeal in favour of injustice.

### Illogical and Contradictory

Not only are Mr. Fallow's arguments unsound, not only do they contain gross falsehoods, but also they are proven illogical and contradictory. May we be allowed on this subject to quote the complete text of a letter given by Mr. Fallow's leader, Premier Man-

ning, himself, in favour of our radio station:

Edmonton, Alberta,  
March 31, 1944.

Dr. L. P. Mousseau,  
Radio Committee Chairman,  
10100 - 109th Street,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I am advised that an application is being made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for a license, for the establishment of radio station in Edmonton to broadcast exclusively in the French language. I understand this radio station being centrally located in Edmonton, will serve the needs of practically all of the French Canadians in Alberta.

I would like to extend my good wishes to you in your efforts in this respect, and I trust that not only will the French Canadians derive benefit and enjoyment from the operation of this radio station, but that the English-speaking people as well, who have acquired some knowledge of the French language, but have lacked the opportunity of either speaking it or hearing it spoken, would likewise derive enjoyment from the French broadcasts.

Wishing you every success,

Yours very truly,

Ernest C. Manning, Premier

This letter in its simplicity is an anticipated reply to the Fallow brief, and to the famous resolution therein contained.

Mr. Fallow claims that a French station would detract from national unity. Mr. Manning on the other hand, points out that English as well as French Canadians would derive benefit. Which of the two is more worthy of credit?

Mr. Fallow would like to see all minorities disappear and to this end would violate the rights of one of the great races in this country. In his mind we lose our rights because, in this Province, we are only 43,000. In his mind numbers are law; might makes right. Mr. Manning knew quite as well as Mr. Fallow that we were but a minority, smaller in num-

ber than others. The Alberta Premier far from blaming us, congratulates us on our endeavours. Which of the two acts with more justice?

Mr. Fallow bases his emphatic opposition to the French radio station in Alberta on the fact that the C.B.C. refuses a commercial license to station CKUA which belongs to the Alberta Government. Yet, when Mr. Manning wrote his letter of approval the situation was exactly the same as it is today. From Mr. Fallow's own admission (see Edmonton papers dated March 7, 1945) the Alberta Government was then taking steps to obtain a commercial license. The C.B.C. had turned down their application the previous year as well as in 1941 Mr. Manning knew it. And yet, far from opposing our French station the Premier freely gave his approval and without any restriction.

Who deserves more consideration, Premier Manning or his Minister Fallow?

#### Conclusion

In a word the Fallow brief is as we asserted, "a misleading brief filled with inaccuracy and prejudice".

In the same manner as the briefs presented by the Protestant sects, it is essentially an appeal to prejudice. Because we are only a minority Mr. Fallow asks the Federal authorities to violate our rights, as though they had no value and were scraps of paper.

In the name of National Unity Mr. Fallow asks the C.B.C. to silence us and to prevent our using the freedom of the airwaves.

In an essentially bilingual country will the Federal authorities respect the inalienable rights of one of the great races which constitute this country? Will an important part of the population be deprived of this freedom of speech or of freedom itself?

Which will prevail: Mr. Fallow's fanaticism or the rights of the French minority in Alberta?

The answer is in the hands of the Federal Government and the C.B.C.

The Radio Committee of the  
French Canadian Association  
of Alberta.

