

COPY

SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE  
 CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION IN OPPOSITION TO  
 THE APPLICATION FOR A FRENCH LANGUAGE STATION  
 IN ALBERTA

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I appear before you on behalf of the Government of Alberta to register its emphatic objection to the granting of a private commercial licence for a French language broadcasting station in this Province. I desire, particularly, to bring to the attention of the Board the fact that in opposing this application the Government is acting in accordance with the views officially expressed by the people's elected representatives in the Provincial Legislature, who by resolution of the Assembly registered their emphatic opposition to a similar application on March 27th, 1945. The resolution of the Assembly, adopted without dissenting voice, after a full discussion of this whole question, read as follows:

"WHEREAS newspaper reports and radio broadcasts have indicated that an application has been made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the issuance of a radio broadcasting licence for a French language station to be located in Edmonton; and

WHEREAS not more than five per cent of the people of Alberta speak the French language, the vast majority of whom also speak English; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta representing all the people of the Province has been refused a Commercial Radio Broadcasting License on the grounds that there are already adequate radio broadcasting facilities in the City of Edmonton;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature go on record  
 as being emphatically opposed to any such action on the part  
 of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; AND BE IT FURTHER  
 RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the Canadian Broadcasting  
 Corporation to issue to the Government of Alberta a Commercial  
 Radio Broadcasting License;  
 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be  
 immediately forwarded to the Dominion Government, and to the  
 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation."

Since the application in question has been revived, the numerous  
 protests lodged with the Government and the comments in the public press  
 indicate that if public opinion has undergone any change in the interval  
 it has been in the direction of increased opposition to the application  
 being given favorable consideration.

The widespread opposition to the application, voiced throughout the  
 Province and by the people's representatives in the Legislative Assembly,  
 stems from three major factors.

1. The adverse influence such a station could have on efforts to  
 establish and strengthen national unity.

No one will question the importance of welding the citizens of Canada  
 into one united whole, irrespective of racial origin or mother tongue. Any  
 agency which by its influence emphasizes and encourages racial segregation  
 obviously detracts from the national oneness which must be the objective of  
 all Canadian citizens if genuine national unity is to be established and  
 preserved. Questionnaires issued by the applicants for the licence in  
 question leave no doubt but that the applicants' desire to use the station  
 for purposes which would aggravate rather than help to remove the spirit  
 of disunity which retards the national progress of any country.

2. The situation with respect to minority groups of other racial origin which would result from approving this particular application.

It has been pointed out in the resolution of the Alberta Legislature, to which I have referred, and in other submissions made to the Board during this hearing, that the French speaking population of Alberta is less than five per cent of our people, and the majority of our French speaking citizens also understand and speak the English language. As against this group of approximately 43,000 people, there are in Alberta some 72,000 citizens whose mother tongue is Ukrainian, 78,000 who speak German and over 63,000 of Scandinavian origin. If the precedent of separate language radio stations for groups of different racial origins is established by granting a licence to those, who numerically constitute the smallest of the minority groups to which I have made reference, obviously the other and larger minorities would have an even greater claim. Carried to its ultimate conclusion, this could well create a situation of absurd and hopeless confusion. I believe it is correct to say that the vast majority of the people of Alberta, therefore, are emphatically opposed to the precedent being established in this province.

3. The fact that the Government of Alberta, applying on behalf of our citizens as a whole, repeatedly has been denied a commercial licence for a publicly owned radio station which has been in operation for over twenty years.

The repeated efforts of the Government of Alberta to obtain a commercial licence for Radio Station C.K.U.A. in Edmonton are well known to the members of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and to the Government of Canada under whose jurisdiction the Corporation functions. Having repeatedly refused a commercial licence for an established station, owned by and operated in the interests of the people of Alberta as a whole, it is inconceivable that the Board should consider favourably an application for a new commercial station, made on behalf of a minority group representing less

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than five per cent of the citizens of this Province. Such inconsistency would be indefensible and intolerable to the people of Alberta.

It is in the light of these circumstances that I, therefore register the most emphatic opposition of the Government and the Legislature of this Province to the application under review.

(Sgd) W. A. Fallow

Minister of Railways and Telephones.