[It is our melancholy task to remove from our masthead the honorary editor of the Journal, Graham Spry, with this issue. He died at his home in Ottawa on November 23rd, at the age of 93. Earle Beattie, Editor Emeritus, attended his funeral service and below expresses a few words in memoriam.]

It was an honor to know Graham Spry, even though slightly. I accomplished this when he accepted an honorary degree at York University in 1976, but in fact he had been a "presence" with me most of my life. Graham Spry became a legend in his own time, unremembered by the general public for his gargantuan service in establishing public broadcasting in Canada. In the early thirties when the United States had turned its broadcasting system into private hands for profit making and created "a vast wasteland" in radio, Graham Spry along with Alan Plaunt, rescued radio from the powerful grasp of the privateers in Canada. He made network broadcasting center on the forerunner of the CBC. The Radio League was the instrument of public opinion and the two men went to parliament in 1932 with a million names in support of the public concept just before parliament voted with one dissenting voice, for approval of their policy.
At St. Bartholomew's Church on Monday, November 18, the choice of eulogizing Graham Spry went to T. C. Douglas, who spoke of a career that was "unhurried and unharried" while at the same time remarkably varied. Tommy Douglas had known him when he was a standard-bearer for the C.C.F. in Ontario, and when he agreed to become agent-general for Saskatchewan, rejecting oil company offers at higher salaries. Mr. Spry had worked for Standard Oil of New Jersey and other companies after his great feat in achieving public broadcasting. As, typically, there was no job available in Canada at the time for one of its heroes. He once told me of that anti-climatic decision being made after Atkinson, senior, of the Star advised him to "go West, young man." But he went South to New York, Graham said, with that well-known twinkle in his eye. Douglas observed how he was greatly assisted in his work by his wife, Irene, who is a noted economist and a scholar in the mining field.

During the war Graham Spry worked for the oil companies and then, reverting to type again, took a job at no pay with Sir Stafford Cripps on his historic mission to India, endeavoring to link Hindu and Moslem in one India.

He had started life in St. Thomas, Ontario, in 1890 and proved so brilliant in his studies that he was awarded a Rhodes scholar. It was as a Rhodes graduate with Alan Plaunt that he returned from Oxford and plunged into the struggle for public broadcasting. In Media Probe, No. 1, Volume 3 (Summer 1976) I wrote that Mr. Spry's acute perception, was in his words "that of all areas of public policy, communication policy is the most vital. It forms the central nervous system of a nation. Who controls the system, controls the nation." He was the right man and the only man at the right time for the right
deed, and it might well have started with editorship of The Manitoban, published by the student body of the University of Manitoba, a paper that I edited myself in 1942. In 1920 when the Winnipeg dailies could not obtain newsprint because of action by the Fort Frances Pulp and Paper Company in selling only to the United States, he published the student weekly paper daily for four days running. At that time he was also secretary of the Winnipeg Radio Club, his involvement with the then new medium.

All these images crossed my mind in the crowded church as a great Canadian was mourned.