

Whereupon Mr. Speaker ruled the proposed amendment out of order on the ground that any matters before the Board of Transport Commissioners for decision are of a judicial character within the meaning of the rule which prohibits the debate in the House of matters which are sub-judice, and that the present amendment would be bound to affect the adjudication by the board of any application for an increase in freight rates now before the board.

In accordance with citation 534 of Beauchesne's 3rd Edition, namely, 'committees are portions of the house and are governed for the most part by the same rules prevailing in the house' it would seem quite clear that the question of the Bell Telephone rates would come under the same ruling as that of June 12th, 1951.

*By Mr. Herridge:*

Q. Mr. Macdonald said the question of the present rates and the rates of the immediate future are related to a study of this bill. Could one of the witnesses tell us how long it is expected that this matter will be before the Board of Transport Commissioners before that matter will be decided?—

A. I am sorry, sir, I cannot possibly guess as to how long the board may take to write its judgment after the hearing stops, in perhaps a couple of weeks from now. It will reserve judgment and take its own time to deliberate on it. How long that will be I cannot guess.

Q. How long will the hearings last?—A. They may last another week or two weeks.

MR. HERRIDGE: Well, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that a proper settlement of this bill is related to the question of present rates I move that this committee postpone its consideration of this bill until after the Board of Transport Commissioners has given its decision, after the hearings are completed.

The CHAIRMAN: That is not a motion unless it is in writing. Any other questions?

*By Mr. Smith (Simcoe North):*

Q. My question deals with the division of the new capital which comes into the company. What proportion of that is likely to go into more or less orthodox telephone systems, and what proportion is being put into all these mysterious and fairly obscure things that we hear about, microwave transmission, television transmissions, and so on?—A. Well all those mysterious things are an effective part of giving telephone service today. These microwave systems are a type of system that is used for long distance operations which, once you have the system established, become a very economical method of operation. These so-called mysteries are all an effective part of the operation of the telephone service. I cannot classify these mysteries. Perhaps I hear a little more of them than you do, but they are all part of the general plant for telephone service, and it would be difficult to make any division.

Q. This work of the company that apparently goes on in far northern Canada, is that completely separated?—A. It is a contract business. We take it on a contract basis.

*By Mr. Winch:*

Q. I should like to ask Mr. Munnoch if in their share of holdings there are corporations or individuals that hold large blocks of shares of the Bell Telephone Company, and if so, who are they?—A. Well, the largest block that I know of, and I think it is the only thing that can be identified as a block,