

## Private Bills

besides they are very well treated by the authorities of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

That company is very good to its employees but in a great number of regions in Canada it has no competition, it is entirely free to do as it pleases. That is why I feel that it would be in the public interest to nationalize that company since such a decision is up to the provinces.

In my view, the federal charter of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada is too old. Until the provinces take the necessary steps to nationalize the company within the scope of their jurisdiction, I feel that in the public interest the government should amend the act and refer the charter of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada to a special committee so that it might be brought into line with present day circumstances since, in my opinion, the company often abuses the wide powers it enjoys under its charter.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I will give a summary of the discussions held at the convention of the chamber of commerce of the Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm region—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I think I was very lenient with the hon. member, since I allowed him to stray quite far from the subject matter under consideration. If the hon. member would read the explanatory notes of the bill, he will realize that the bill now before the house is rather limited. It deals exclusively with increasing the number of directors from 15 to 20.

I do not think that an amendment as explicit as this one permits discussion in this house of all the sections of the act concerning the company in question.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, if it is decided, through this bill, to increase from 15 to 20 the maximum number of board directors, it is surely because the Bell Telephone Company of Canada has made enormous progress in the country where it operates. This is one of the reasons why I wanted to draw the attention of the house to the huge profits made by that company. If profits were only \$4 or 5 million, it would be acceptable, but they are of the order of \$68 million, and it is only for that reason that—

[Text]

**Mr. Pennell:** I wonder if I may be allowed to ask the hon. member a question purely for my own information. Are there any other telephone companies operating in the province of Quebec?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to answer—

[Text]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I suggest the question asked by the hon. member concerns an aspect of the matter which is again irrelevant and out of order.

[Translation]

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked a question and, even if I come back to this matter, I can answer him without being out of order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member would be out of order if he were to reply.

**Mr. Pigeon:** I also agree that private companies such as that of Mr. Jules Brillant, a member of the legislative council, should be taxed and should not be granted an exemption.

If this bill to increase from 15 to 20 the number of directors is introduced, it is surely not because the volume of business of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada has decreased. Each year, on the contrary, their profits have been increasing.

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I think the point you brought up a moment ago should be insisted upon. We are only dealing with a measure of an administrative nature, and yet my hon. friend is showing himself a supporter of the socialist philosophy.

I understand that he has been rejected by his party since he showed his intention to vote against the union jack, but that is no reason to betray his party.

Therefore, I still insist that this bill is a purely administrative resolution and that there is no reason to expound virtually communistic principles simply because the bill seeks to increase the number of directors.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reply to the hon. member who is still inexperienced in the house by telling him that every year I have spoken about the Bell Telephone Company, and I know that many hon. members, including the President of the Privy Council (Mr. McIlraith), agree with a good deal of my contentions even if they sit on the government side.

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member has no right to impute intentions, motives or feelings to an hon. member who is absent.