

Hon. Mr. McLean: Are you a shareholder in the New Brunswick Telephone Company?

Hon. Mr. Burchill: The Bell Company does not control that.

Hon. Mr. McLean: Well, it is a subsidiary of the Bell.

Hon. Mr. Burchill: The Bell Company holds some of the stock, but it does not control it.

Honourable senators, may I add a few words to the discussion? I am not a shareholder of the Bell Telephone Company, but I hold some brief for them, because I happen to know something about the difficulties of the telephone business. I have been associated with the telephone company in New Brunswick for some years, and in a much smaller way we have been faced with just the very same problems faced by the Bell Telephone Company, which operates in the wider sphere of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I want to assure honourable gentlemen that for the last ten years, ever since the close of the war, telephone companies all over this country have been faced with the great problem of obtaining sufficient capital in order to meet the demands of the people who want telephone service.

I am sorry I was unable to be present at yesterday morning's committee meeting to which the honourable senator from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) referred.

Perhaps one feature has not been emphasized sufficiently, and that is the tremendous amount of capital that is required in order to build what is known as the Trans-Canada telephone service. I do not know if that point was raised yesterday morning. The Trans-Canada telephone service is an amalgamation of all the telephone companies in Canada from the east coast to the west coast. Linked together under the Trans-Canada system are the telephone companies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan telephone systems, all of which are provincial government systems, and the British Columbia Telephone Company. When the Trans-Canada service is eventually completed my honourable friend from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Isnor) will be able to pick up his telephone, dial a number, and speak directly to my honourable friend in Vancouver (Hon. Mr. Farris).

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: At what cost?

Hon. Mr. Burchill: At a trifling cost. The achievements and developments of the telephone industry in the field of communications over the past few years in this country, and

indeed on the whole of the North American continent, have been most amazing. But the amount of money required to build microwave towers and to complete the intricate modernization of this amazing development of science is phenomenal. The various telephone companies have provided a good deal of the money for the purpose of linking together the separate parts of this great Trans-Canada telephone system which, I may say, is just one more bond uniting Canada from the east coast to the west coast. And, let us remember, such a system of communication is a vital factor in our defence program.

I have every sympathy for what the Bell Telephone Company of Canada is trying to do, and I think Parliament would do well to assist in furthering its plans by the passage of this legislation.

Hon. Mr. Monette: Honourable senators, may I be allowed to say a few words?

Hon. Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, is there a motion before the house? If there is, I would like to get in on the debate too.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it has been moved by the Honourable Senator Macdonald, seconded by the Honourable Senator Hugessen, that further debate on the motion for third reading be postponed until the next sitting of the house. Is it the pleasure of honourable senators to adopt the motion?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Honourable senators, may I speak on a point of order? I assumed my friend the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) was not pressing his motion. If that is so, are we not back to the original motion?

The Hon. the Speaker: The motion of the Honourable Senator Monette to refer the bill back to committee was withdrawn, and the motion now before the house is that the debate be adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Perhaps my friend the Leader of the Opposition will withdraw that motion so that this bill may be discussed now. It is a salutary discussion, Mr. Speaker, and I would not like to have it ruled out of order.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I understand that as the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) has already spoken, even if the debate were ruled in order he would not be able to speak again.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I do not propose to speak again.