

*Telesat Canada Act*

In addition, the supporters of cable systems are also of the opinion, based on their experiences, that satellites do not perform as well as cables in the transmission of telephone conversations. For instance, with a satellite located 22,000 miles above the earth, there is a time lapse of 0.6 second between voice emission and reception. Although this is of no consequence in the reception of television programs, it is said that this delay of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a second in the transmission of telephone conversations overseas is most annoying.

These, Mr. Speaker, are the few observations I wanted to make, and questions on which I should like the government to give us some information when this bill is studied in committee.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Before proceeding further with the consideration of this bill, I should like to point out that a short while ago an amendment was proposed by the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Schreyer). The Chair has some doubt whether it is in order. I wonder, therefore, whether at this point some hon. members might enlighten the Chair on whether the amendment should be accepted. I might say that the Chair feels it is not, properly speaking, a reasoned amendment, which is the only guise under which this type of amendment could be moved and accepted. The hon. member for Selkirk might want to indicate to the Chair whether in his view this type of amendment ought to be accepted at this time.

**Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk):** As Your Honour knows so well by now, I am not an expert on procedural matters. However, this amendment was drafted after considerable consultation. It was felt that it was in the nature of a reasoned amendment in that it was proposing to refer the subject matter of the bill for further consideration. It is my understanding that at this stage of the proceedings on the bill it is not possible to offer amendments on any of the specifics but rather to offer amendments having to do only with the essence of the bill. I submit that this is what we attempted to do, and quite frankly I await Your Honour's ruling with interest.

• (9:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** If there are no further comments on the point, I believe that a ruling should be made at this time. As I indicated a moment ago, I have serious doubts as to the acceptability of this amendment from the

[Mr. Rodrigue.]

procedural standpoint. The hon. member himself has said that this amendment purports to be a reasoned amendment. May's seventeenth edition, at page 527, lists the conditions for a reasoned amendment and, in particular, paragraph (1) refers to the fact that such an amendment would have to be declaratory of a principle in opposition to or differing from the principles, policy or provisions of the bill. I think that the amendment proposed by the hon. member does not follow this requirement. It appears that the amendment as proposed is not declaratory of a principle but rather proposes an alternative scheme. It is, in my view, in the form of a substantive motion which would have to be moved with the usual notice. In view of the circumstances, I doubt very much that the amendment can be accepted. The hon. member might give the matter some thought. The debate will proceed, and there may be an occasion later on to move another amendment which might perhaps conform a little more to my interpretation of a reasoned amendment.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure, tonight, to make a few remarks, following the introduction by my colleague, the hon. Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans), of a bill establishing a corporation for telecommunication which will be called "Telesat Canada".

First of all, I must say that the establishment in Canada of that corporation and of an adequate satellite telecommunication system is extremely important for the development of northern Canada. In recent years, the officials of my department as well as my predecessor, the present Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing), have followed such development very closely and have participated in the most efficient way in the achievement of that important project in the field of communications in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we know that as minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I am particularly responsible for those people who live in the northernmost parts of Canada and that the role of telecommunications are of the utmost importance in this regard. In fact, on several occasions, when I was touring the North, I have been able to see how painful the problem of isolation can be for the people of those areas, specially for those technicians who came there from the South these last few years to help develop those areas and the abundant natural resources found there.