

*Government Orders*

In years gone by we have had limited capacity. We relied heavily on radio. Now we have CBC television broadcasting. Many of the communities get Newsworld. It has been a plus for northerners who do not have the opportunity to get out into mainstream Canadian society by way of travel, because it is very isolated and very remote. We have the opportunity through CBC to share with the rest of Canada what the north is all about and also to get the message to the north of what Canada is all about, in all parts of the country.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** I am sorry but I cannot recognize the hon. member for Mount Royal because she is not in her seat.

[*English*]

**Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to say just a very few words in connection with Bill C-40, as it proceeds on third reading to final passage and on to the Senate.

You may not recall it, Mr. Speaker, because as I recall you were not with us during the last Parliament. However, all of your associates in the chair will recall very well the fact that during the last Parliament a very similar bill was put forward by the government with many similar provisions relating to broadcasting. That bill proceeded through the House, was finally passed by the House, went on to the Senate, and then, when the election of 1988 was called, it died because it had not been passed by the Senate prior to the election call.

That bill contained some provisions which caused some great concern to a good many constituents of mine, particularly residents of condominiums. They felt that the provisions of that former bill—and I must say that I agree with them—were discriminatory with respect to condominium owners because of the fact that they were treated differently than those who were the owners of single family detached dwellings. In fact they opposed that bill quite vehemently. They presented their views on many occasions, sometimes by letter, sometimes by telephone calls, and ultimately by representations before the

legislative committee that considered that bill, asking for amendments that would have placed condominium owners in the same position as those who were single family detached home owners.

Mr. Speaker, others who sat in the chair that you are sitting in at the present time, will recall that I took a very strong position on behalf of my constituents at that time. I too put forward amendments to that bill in an effort to try to bring about some changes which would put condominium owners on an equal footing with those in single family homes, to the extent that when that bill was at report stage and notwithstanding the fact that I was a strong supporter of the government and continue to be, I did not vote for the bill at report stage. Today we have a brand new bill before us but it has provisions which are very, very similar to the provisions contained in the previous bill that was presented before the Thirty-third Parliament.

I have a great many constituents who are very supportive of this particular bill. In fact, they have written urging me to support it. I have received some 18 letters with respect to this bill from people who are my constituents and who are also members of an association which you are familiar with, Mr. Speaker, known as the Friends of the CBC. Understandably, they want to see this bill passed because it has been a long time since we have had new legislation governing either the CBC or broadcasting in this country.

The previous Minister of Communications in the last government brought the bill forward because it had been years and years since we had had legislation to catch up with the many technological changes, if nothing else, that had occurred in broadcasting since the passage of the last legislation with respect to broadcasting.

Notwithstanding the support that this bill receives and the understandable feelings that we need new legislation, I still truly believe that the owners of condominiums have a legitimate concern with this bill, as they had with the last bill, concerning the impact of satellite receivers. With the prior bill and with this bill, condominium owners feel it is discriminatory and that they are not treated the same way as single family home owners.