

nearly the whole day and we have not heard from the province of Ontario. The province of Ontario is going to be concerned with the very large percentage that Mr. Munnoch has been referring to. I want to point out some facts about it. The city of Toronto opposed the Bell Telephone Company when an application was up some years ago. We had the support of the Ontario government. I do not see them represented here today.

As one of those coming from the province of Ontario I wish to point out certain facts about this particular application. I am glad there has been a stenographic report made today. It will help to clean up a lot of misunderstandings about the company and about this bill. I do say this in all fairness to the consumer who is going to pay a large percentage of this melon cutting, that we have no mandate, I have no mandate, and I received no mandate in 1945 from my constituency to support a bill like this which creates a vaster monopoly than there has been in our province.

I wish to point out at the time this bill was before us before, the city of Toronto spent a very large sum of money examining the books of the company, which is a well conducted company, one of the finest companies from the point of view of administration under private ownership in this country.

I wish to say that at the time the Board of Railway Commissioners met here in Ottawa and decided that as a commission they had no jurisdiction over subsidiaries of this company a bill was introduced into the House of Commons when I was in the House by the member from Toronto South, Mr. Geary, giving the Board of Railway Commissioners, now the Board of Transport Commissioners, jurisdiction over subsidiaries of this company.

At the present time what have we got? We have spent a very good day getting facts. The facts have been given in the proper way instead of garbled reports in the newspapers concerning those who were opposing this bill when we rose in the House as members of parliament and asserted our rights and functions and privileges to ask questions about this particular bill. We were ridiculed by nearly the whole public press of Canada, and garbled reports were sent out which I objected to in the House of Commons at the time. I do not blame the company for it, far from it. There are a lot of very public spirited men in the company who have given splendid service. I wish we had more similarly public spirited men.

I wish to point out some facts for the benefit of the committee when jurisdiction was given over subsidiaries. The Bell Telephone Company directors have 52 per cent of the Northern Electric stock. The Telegraph and Telephone Company of New York has 47 per cent of the Northern Electric stock, and the directors of the Northern Electric have only 1 per cent of their stock. The employees have no stock in this company.

You have had a long discussion today. I do not wish to speak more than two or three minutes, but I wish to say that I have no right to bind the province of Ontario to a monopoly like this for the next fifty years. If this matter had been discussed in the 1945 elections not many of the members coming from the province of Ontario would be here today. That is what I have been objecting to about our province, that when you look over the House of Commons today you will find that members from our province do not stand together like those from British Columbia, the prairies, the maritime provinces and Quebec. A great many of the members from our province have not the courage to assert their rights and privileges as members of the House of Commons.

I want to say that so far as this bill is concerned I have no mandate from my constituents, nor has any member from the Toronto district or from the province of Ontario. I am surprised at the attitude of some of the members from the province of Ontario representing the party to which I belong. I, myself, am a reformer but I am the only true blue Conservative left in the House of Commons. I am a really true blue Conservative. Because a person calls himself progressive