

backwater and certainly would not have one of the highest standards of living in the world if we had this tunnel vision and if every time someone from the outside wished to invest money in Canada we questioned his motives and said, "oh, no, you cannot come here unless you are willing to subject yourself to some sort of punitive action". I think it is unfortunate that that kind of talk is still being heard in Canada.

**Mr. Woolliams:** You do not like Walter Gordon, then.

**Mr. Perrault:** I am not talking on that subject this afternoon.

The control of this domestic satellite system will be exercised fully and effectively in Canada. This remains the fact. Canadians will benefit whether or not they are direct shareholders in the corporation. Apart from their technical resources which they will be investing in this project, the participating private companies will be the principal users of the system. They will rent its services to retail to their customers. This corporation will complement, not compete with, common carriers.

Certainly this measure should serve to promote the widest possible share ownership. In my view it is consistent with demands from various quarters of the house, including the left side of the opposition, that Canadians be given more opportunities to share in the ownership of Canadian enterprises. But let there be no lingering concern on the part of any of us. It is to be hoped that a detailed committee study of this proposal will be carried out and that expert witnesses will be called for testimony. I also hope, as I said earlier, that appropriate changes will be made to improve this legislation still further.

Undoubtedly the launching of this satellite will be one of the most important actions of this parliament. The basis of the corporation should be sound and the public interest should be protected as effectively as possible. I hope that this measure can be referred to the committee for the detailed study which it deserves. I suggest to the house that the amendment be defeated, that we go on with the true task before the house, that we give second reading to the bill and refer it to the committee as quickly as possible.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I felt it was my duty to take part in this

*Telesat Canada Act*

debate on Bill C-184 concerning the establishment of a Canadian corporation for telecommunication by satellite which will be designated under the legal and commercial name of Telesat Canada to stress certain points which seem to have been forgotten since the bill was introduced as well as by the minister himself.

Mr. Speaker, the progress of a country like Canada which geographically extends from sea to sea is closely related to the development of its means of communication. It is almost unanimously recognized that the establishment of a communication system by satellite is an important step in the unification of the various Canadian regions.

I am glad, Mr. Speaker, that the government acknowledged the imperious need for Canada to be provided with a system of communication by satellite which will enhance our Canadian identity.

Besides, Canada's population is made up of various ethnic groups, and especially of two large cultural communities, one French and one English. It is a fact that gathers increasing support that both must be treated on an equal footing wherever there is a minority.

We must, for instance, provide the French-speaking minorities outside Quebec with opportunities for development and for the safeguard of their culture, and we must provide them with information and entertainment in their own language.

The freedom to choose for each private individual and the opportunity for a minority to express itself, that should be the principle behind the philosophy of the new corporation called "Telesat Canada".

I believe that that corporation will meet the two requirements necessary for the development of Canada and for the fulfilment of the basic needs of Canadians, wherever they may be, whatever the language they may speak and whatever the culture they may belong to.

Although we agree on the principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat nonplussed at a few particular points with which I shall deal briefly and to which I wish to draw the attention of the minister who introduced this legislation in the house.

Here are the main questions I ask myself on the content of the bill.

First, will the system be bilingual or, in other terms, will there be a particular channel for programs in French, and another for those in English?