

strength of having such equipment attached to the line. When we refer to input and output devices, that is what is being referred to here. That is the assurance I have had from law officers of the Crown.

I appreciate the concerns that are raised by my friends opposite and obviously this matter is of concern to them. I am glad to be able to give them that reassurance. I also accept the point that was made by my friends that this is an important bill and deserves serious consideration. That is why pursuant to Standing Order 26(1) I move:

That the House continue to sit beyond the normal hour of adjournment for the purpose of continuing consideration of Bill C-62, an act respecting telecommunications.

I believe that motion is non-debatable, Mr. Speaker.

*And more than 15 members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Pursuant to Standing Order 26(2), the motion is deemed to have been withdrawn.

**Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to again express the concerns that have been expressed by the previous speakers on this legislation.

• (1625 )

I note that the minister took the time to rise briefly to comment on the amendment proposed by my colleague. That amendment basically sees measures coming forward again to transfer the cost of the basic telephone system from the telephone company to the owner.

The minister rose in the House to try to assure everyone that things are just fine and none of these matters that concern us will come to pass. In reality I think the concerns we have are certainly valid. Other attempts by the government to assure the opposition and the people of Canada that they have nothing to worry about and that this government has their best interests in mind have certainly proven false. It has inflicted great harm in some quarters.

This amendment would allow the suppliers of services to avoid the cost of providing the inside servicing to purchasers of the telephone services. I see this as contrary to what the minister is saying. It is the natural consequence of what this government has done. I think

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this government has made sure that Canadian companies will no longer be major players in this as time goes by.

It reminds me a great deal of the Canadian airlines arrangement where this government seems interested in permitting an American carrier to take over control of a Canadian carrier. Within a decade down the road we will be looking at American domination of an air transportation system. Those are the fears of my constituents. That is what my constituents are telling me.

We have watched this government open up the telephone service in Canada to Unitel. Now we have two competing agencies supplying telephone service, a basic public utility. As soon as Unitel obtained that right it sold a major portion of its action to AT&T in the United States, which is probably the largest dominator of telecommunications in North America. I am given to understand it has an enormous surplus of capacity and we will be running that capacity through the United States.

That is bound to create enormous cost problems for Canadian companies providing Canadian telecommunications services. Our telecommunications companies in Canada will attempt to rationalize costs by laying off Canadians and trying to bring their costs down. They will try to stop providing services to Canadians as this motion points out by eliminating responsibilities that those companies previously undertook.

In this motion before us the opposition is challenging the government on its national telecommunications policy. It would stop offences like the bill before us. It would stop the kind of activity where we see Unitel being given access to the Canadian telecommunications system and the AT&T through Unitel being given access to it.

It is a very clear indication that in the telecommunications field this Conservative government is looking at creating a common market in North America that as time goes by will grow and allow the Americans to dominate it. It will turn Canada into another Puerto Rico. We can see the end result of this in the telecommunications system laying off hundreds and hundreds if not thousands of telecommunications workers in Canada and driving up the cost of basic telephone service to consumers.

We have seen this in the transportation system. We have seen this in the North American free trade agreement. This government is selling Canada down the river