

Private Bills

listed on today's order paper, namely private bills, notices of motions (papers), public bills.

PRIVATE BILLS**CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS**

Bill No. S-8, respecting The General Accident Assurance Company of Canada—Mr. Wahn.

Bill No. S-9, respecting Scottish Canadian Assurance Corporation—Mr. Wahn.

Bill No. S-14, respecting The Dominion Life Assurance Company—Mr. Weichel.

Bill No. S-12, respecting Allstate Insurance Company of Canada—Mr. Ryan.

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA

Mr. J. E. Brown (Braniford) moved the second reading of Bill No. S-27, respecting The Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to say a few words.

I wish to point out to the house that the net income of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada for the year ended on December 31, 1963 amounted to \$68.3 million.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether it would not be in the public interest that the federal charter of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada be completely revised, since in my opinion it is outdated.

I also wonder whether it would not also be in the interest of the Canadian people that the provinces consider the possibility of nationalizing the Bell Telephone Company of Canada within their territory.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. If the hon. member will allow the Chair to interrupt him for a second, I should like him to show, if possible, how his remarks are related to the amendment before the house.

As the hon. member knows, he cannot take advantage of an amending bill to refer to other sections of the legislation to be amended.

Consequently, I would urge the hon. member to limit his comments to the substance of the amendment under consideration.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, if I refer to section 1 of this bill, I notice that subsection 8 reads as follows:

The business of the company shall be managed by a board—

[*Mr. Deputy Speaker.*]

If they want to increase the number of directors, it is surely to look after the business of the company. That means look after the company's earnings. Therefore one can surely talk about the earnings and profits made by the Bell Telephone Company of Canada in the Canadian areas where it is operating.

In short, that certainly allows me to make the necessary remarks as far as that public utility company is concerned. That is why I referred earlier to the net income of \$68 million realized by the Bell Telephone Company of Canada. It is the largest monopoly in the world. There is none larger or more powerful in the whole world.

It is time that authorities concerned assumed their responsibilities and amended first the federal charter of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, which is a state within a state.

I do not wish to question the devotion to duty of this company's employees, who work in the best interests of the Canadian people. However, I feel bound to draw to the attention of the house this powerful monopoly, the Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

I remember that, at a convention held by the chambers of commerce in L'Assomption, nationalization of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada was requested. Several organizations have also talked about that in the past and they are still talking about it.

With your kind permission, Mr. Speaker, I will read a few extracts of the report which was submitted by the chamber of commerce of L'Assomption about this matter.

[*Text*]

Mr. Francis: May I ask the hon. member a question. I am trying to follow the hon. member's remarks and he is probably aware, as are other hon. members, that most of the business of this company is outside the province of Quebec. Is he relating his remarks only to the activities of the company in the province of Quebec, or to its activities in the whole of Canada?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, the charter of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada is a federal one, but the nationalization of that company is a provincial matter. First of all, may I point out that I encourage my province to take the necessary action to nationalize that company as soon as possible. I have nothing against that company's employees who give the best of themselves in the public interest;