

Telecommunications Satellites

still limit the way in which co-ops pay patronage refunds to their members.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. It being five o'clock it is my duty to rise, report progress and request leave to sit again later this day.

Progress reported.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Fisheries; the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave)—Grain; the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Lattipelle)—External Trade. It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions (papers), private bills and public bills.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of two of my colleagues I wonder if I may ask for consent for the first two items under the heading of "Motions for Papers" on today's order paper to be withdrawn. I refer to order No. 24 in the name of the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), and to order No. 49 in the name of the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave).

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Orders discharged and motions withdrawn.

• (5:00 p.m.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**COMMUNICATIONS**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES—REQUEST FOR COPY OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN HUGHES AIRCRAFT, NORTHERN ELECTRIC AND SPAR AEROSPACE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough) moved:

That an order of the House do issue for a copy of the agreements between Hughes Aircraft Co. on the one hand and Northern Electric Co. of Montreal and Spar Aerospace Ltd., Malton, Ont. respecting component parts for telecommunications satellites.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the original inquiry now seems a bit ancient since it was raised here in November, 1970. The matter with which it deals, however, has not by any means become obsolescent. Indeed, it is a strange coincidence that in many ways this question is especially germane in this Parliament and in this country today. It deals with documentation which is not revealed. As we have often thought in recent months, far too many publications

[Mr. Orlikow.]

are concealed from study by Members of Parliament and from perusal by the public which they concern.

The matter, of course, also deals with the tremendously important item of competition from foreign industry, an eternal situation I suppose in recent years. It reveals a collapse of the expectations which the government had created in and for the Canadian people. I recall the heady days of yesteryear when the present hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans) used to have such high-flown hopes and such lofty ambitions for what was to be done in the stratosphere in the realm of telecommunications.

Mr. Bell: Whatever happened to him?

Mr. Dinsdale: He went into orbit.

Mr. Macquarrie: I often thought when things got worse in the postal department that the rosy hopes in the communications branch became more and more rosy. Lower and lower went the morale of the Post Office and up and up into the stratosphere went the satellites. I used to say of the former incumbent that as a postmaster general he was a good economist. I still think he is a good economist, and in these matters he should be listened to by his associates across the way. I ask for these documents because I am very concerned about what has happened to the hopes which we had been led to entertain in reference to a very important matter, the development of a domestic telecommunications system for this country. Important legislation was passed, very serious scrutiny and discussion in committees ensued and there was a good deal of public discussion and a great deal of public expectation on this extremely important matter.

One of the prime inducements which was set before this House as the bill was passed and as the estimates were passed and this money was voted, was that the development of a domestic satellite system would add tremendously to Canadian technology, especially in the advanced field of scientific technology. We were led to believe that there would be a tremendous spin-off, that Canada would advance itself immeasurably because of the application of the ability of its scientists and of its highly refined and sophisticated industrial workers in this very important scientific equipment.

We were led to expect breath-taking gains in the important field of scientific and technological innovation. I believe it was not so much the spinning of the satellite itself but the spin-off from the industrial technological development which sold the people of Canada on this. There was no reason Canadians should not look upon that future as reasonably hopeful. Canadians were not and are not infants in the field of space age technology. The Alouette satellite went up years ago and proved to be extremely successful. The life span and performance reached was better than expected. Alouette II was also very successful. Isis A and B "flew" very well. They were well constructed and were very capable, operating birds, if I may use the expression.

When the government produced its white paper it was under the imprimatur and inscription of the then minister of industry, who is now President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury). There was some clear outline of what would happen. I shall read a paragraph or two from the white paper called "A Domestic Satellite Communication