

Government Orders

There is nothing to be ashamed of here. Some may say it is their right to find out what is happening, but this is almost like somebody coming to your doorstep and putting his or her ear to your door trying to listen to a conversation between you and a member of your family. That person can eventually come to us and say it is their right to know and find out what is happening between you and a member of your family.

It is important for us as a society to balance the two fundamental rights: the individual right to freedom of expression and privacy, and the collective right of society as a whole. In my view this piece of legislation does just that. It provides, to a large extent, a balance between what is considered to be the individual's right and what is considered to be a collective right, my right to privacy and the right of society to protection.

That is why one segment of the bill gives members of our police force the right to use electronic surveillance where they believe there is a dangerous situation and a need for intervention by the authorities.

We have the right of the community to protection and safety, and a provision whereby this bill will allow people in authority to have access to information that takes place between two individuals in our society.

This bill goes a long way toward providing the industry with the necessary infrastructure to launch it further, rather than creating a set-back and scaring off the consumers as well as the professionals who are using cellular telephones on a daily basis.

A lot of people who are watching now are probably thinking they should really think twice about buying or renting a cellular telephone. Of course it is the individual's decision. It is not a decision you or I can make for them.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House that by the year 1996-97 cellular telephone use will increase by about 25 per cent. In other words, by the year 1996-97 in excess of 1.5 million Canadian men and women may be using cellular telephones. Of course, many of those users will want to see some sort of protection.

You can compare that to the United States. The United States has had a tremendous increase in the use of cellular telephones. As a matter of fact the industry in the U.S. generates in excess of \$6.7 billion a year. When we talk about that large industry and that large and wide

market it is another opportunity for our industry to eventually launch into the United States and elsewhere around the world.

• (1900)

The United States has in excess of about nine million subscribers. When you look at the proportion between Canada with about 26 million people and the United States with about 10 times that and the penetration of its industry and compare it to ours, there is a very good balance between what the Americans have been able to do there and what we are doing here. The rate of increase in the United States is about 9 per cent on an annual basis. We are ahead of that and we are doing just fine.

Moving a little beyond this particular bill, which in fact does address the issue to a point, I would like to see work being done on the question of faxes and access to information.

My colleagues and I receive a whole pile of faxes on a daily basis. One would question the necessity of sending some of the correspondence by fax. Perhaps it would be better to use the mail. I hope that some time the government or future government will look at the possibility of trying to do something to control the flow of information via fax.

This legislation also protects information coming over the fax machines. That information is treated as being similar to voice or computer information being sent. Fax users are in fact protected.

My advice to Canadians and those who might be watching or listening is that whenever you are using your cellular telephone assume at least half the city is listening. This legislation is not going to solve your problem. If you are dealing with a business matter it is preferable not to discuss it on the cellular telephone.

I know there is a tendency to go on and on when you are on the line. Eventually you divulge a lot of information about a business contract or a discussion as it relates to information you might not want to disclose over the line.

There are a few points that can be addressed at the committee level and I hope the bill will go to committee. For those who might have some concerns in the industry or the the community, I would suggest that the committee level is the best place for those concerns to be addressed.