

step further and produce them right in this country, particularly in western Canada. It would provide jobs for western Canadians in the process.

We require a vision of the country where farmers are in control of those factories and plants so that farmers themselves, not large companies or Governments, are making decisions about the production of farm chemicals. Perhaps that is radical. It is a bit of economic democracy, a bit of local control, and a bit of self-direction. However, we can trust farmers to be in control of their own business and in control of their plants. In the process they will produce jobs for people in western Canada and produce farm chemicals at cost.

For those reasons I hope we can wind up this debate very soon. We all agree with the particular Bill. Let us send it to committee and get on with other important issues like farm chemicals, deficiency payments, the future of agriculture in Canada, and the need to support it to ensure that farmers are given an even break because they are the most productive farmers in the world. They are doing a good job, but they are now suffering from factors beyond their control.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mrs. Finestone, moves that the question be now put. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Mayer, seconded by Mr. Mazankowski, moves that Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

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BELL CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications) moved that Bill C-13, an Act respecting the reorganization of Bell Canada, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

She said: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to move second reading of Bill C-13, the Bell Canada Reorganization Act. A similar version of the Bill was considered in a previous session. That Bill, Bill C-19, was drafted as a result of the corporate reorganization of Bell Canada in 1983. The purpose of the present Bill is the same—to ensure that Bell Canada

continues to meet its obligations to the Canadian public in the provision of telephone services.

The reorganization of the Bell companies created a new parent holding company, Bell Canada Enterprises. Bell Canada, the telephone company, is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell Canada Enterprises, and Bell Canada Enterprises has become involved in a wide range of other unregulated activities and investments.

The Bill before us has been fine tuned as a result of considerable detailed examination of the previous Bill C-19 by the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture. When the Bill came before the House, it was debated at second reading, and then it went to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture for detailed examination.

[Translation]

The standing committee began studying this Bill a little less than a year ago, in December 1985. Representatives of 11 organizations, including interest groups, labour unions, telecommunications companies, delegates from business circles, Bell Canada, Bell Enterprises and the CRTC, appeared as witnesses.

Committee members got to know different viewpoints on the Bill and heard a few suggestions concerning the consolidation of CRTC regulatory powers with respect to telephone services.

Of course Bell Canada and Bell Enterprises were fearful that the Bill might jeopardize their international operations or even impose regulations. CRTC spokesman André Bureau stated that he and his colleagues were supportive of the Bill. According to him the provisions related to access to information from Bell Canada and to the authority to make a distinction between monopolistic and competitive operations were of prime interest to the CRTC.

[English]

I turn now to a clause by clause examination of what has been done in general terms but not in any great detail. In its subsequent clause by clause examination, the standing committee considered a number of Government and opposition amendments designed to improve and, as I say, fine tune the clarity of the previous Bill. In large measure these amendments were based on the very thoughtful submissions of the various witnesses, and they have been carried over into the present Bill C-13. We wanted to respect what the standing committee had done in the previous session of Parliament. Therefore, the amendments put through at that time were also reproduced in the Bill now before us.

• (1610)

When I look at these clauses I can say to you, Sir, that the first 10 clauses of Bill C-13 restate the provisions of the Special Act of Parliament under which Bell Canada was originally established a number of years ago. Essentially what those 10 clauses do is define the nature of Bell Canada's