



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

An Address by Mr. J.R. Baldwin, Deputy Minister of Transport, to the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers Association of Canada, Bigwin Inn, Lake of Bays, Muskoka, Ontario, June 20, 1958.

Telecommunications is a relatively new word in our vocabulary and although widely used today is not always fully understood by the general public. It covers not only the transfer of intelligence by telegraph and telephone, but also sound and video broadcasting, radio aids to navigation, electronic surveying, remote control, telemetering and a host of other special electronic and electrical services.

The past fifty years have witnessed a tremendous growth in telecommunications in all parts of the world. With the challenge of a large area and a small widely dispersed population, Canada has been in the forefront in this growth and today our telegraph, telephone, broadcasting and radio navigation systems rank with the finest in the world.

Fifty years ago telegraph service in Canada was limited to the handling of messages between the major towns and cities. This service has grown until it covers all developed parts of our country and provides teletype, telephoto, facsimile and other forms of wire communications.

Similarly, our telephone system in 1908 was still in embryonic state. Today all major communities in Canada have telephone service available to them.

In 1908 we had a total of twenty-four radio stations engaged solely in the provision of radiotelegraph service to ships. Today, we have in the neighbourhood of fifty thousand stations performing a multitude of services ranging from simple units to the most complex aeronautical navigational aids.

The first sound broadcasting in Canada took place when the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada was authorized