

considerations, which I know we would all be interested in seeing handled in the best way possible.

I am sure many of the Members of this House and the public who are watching have heard of HDTV, a new kind of television system that is coming. This television set uses more lines. It is a whole complex hocus-pocus thing that has to do with communications. As much as we do not understand it and as much as we do not know how it works, let me assure you that it is dependent on what is available on this radio spectrum. Even if we do not understand how it works, once it is available we will all go and buy it. It is important that this whole spectrum work well. It is also important that we catch up on the technology. Japan is light-years ahead of us. The Americans are dragging their feet but the Germans want to join the parade and I think Canada ought to get into the act.

It is my great pleasure to have been able to say a few words with respect to this sophisticated technology. In practical terms, it is very important.

There is one thing that I do not believe my hon. colleague addressed, that is, the important implications it has for the quality of life in the cities, in the small towns and villages in which we live. For the first time there is some clarity as to the role of management in the installation that is needed to use this very precious esoteric type of equipment. I am speaking of the towers and the antennae that you see out in the marshlands and fields, sometimes scarring the skyline of our cities. Municipalities have tried to deal with this issue. They have not been able to answer it. Citizens complained that their favourite park or walkland was being disrupted by the unsightly view of a tower or antenna soaring into the air. Nobody really had the proper kind of control. The original bill, written over 50 years ago, said that the Minister: "Shall regulate and control all technical matters related to the planning for and the construction and operation of broadcasting facilities. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Minister shall—" and 20 pages later, all the things that the Minister can do in great detail.

This Bill makes it clear that if you are unhappy with what your municipality is allowing to be built, if you feel powerless because there is no place to go, you can now go to your genial Oscar-winning Minister of Communi-

cations and through his department, you can get some exemption and some relief from the kinds of things that you do not care to have in your environment. If it meets certain standards technically, okay, but if it scars the environment—maybe the Minister of Environment will have something to say about that, too—but the Minister of Communications can say, under Clause 5, that the Minister may take into account all matters that the Minister considers relevant for ensuring the orderly establishment or modification of radio stations and the orderly development and efficient operation of telecommunications. He can take all these things into account, other than technical matters.

It is a tremendous improvement for our environment. We can go for walks. The birds can sing their songs and we can be at peace without the visual encumbrances that we often see today. With that, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to hear anyone who has something to say about this technical matter at legislative committee. We look forward to discussions with our colleagues on this particular bill, Bill C-6.

[Translation]

—Bill C-6, an Act to amend the Radio Act and certain other Acts in consequence thereof. The Radio Act is now called the Radiocommunication Act.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, as the New Democratic Party's critic for culture and communications, I support this Bill. As my hon. colleague, the Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone) said earlier, this is a Bill to amend the Radio Act and certain other Acts in consequence thereof. I have a few comments about the Bill itself. I would like to say that the parliamentary secretary who spoke in both French and English, and in very good French, too, that—

[English]

Since I am going to deal with some details, I will switch into English, and fairly briefly on the Bill, as the Parliamentary Secretary has covered it quite thoroughly. It is a Bill, as my colleagues have said, to amend the Radio Act and other Acts in consequence thereof. The Radio Act, as has been said, governs the use of radio frequencies in Canada. This Bill provides flexibility, as I understand it, in dealing with technological change which is long overdue from garage door openers to satellite communications, the malfunctioning of non-ra-