

*Private Bills*

**Mr. Choquette:** I should like to ask the hon. member whether he himself is the owner of a private telephone company.

**Mr. Herridge:** Yes, I am quite willing to admit that. Under the isolated circumstances in which I live my family owns a 40 mile telephone line in order to telephone our neighbours. Let me say that it is operated on a community basis and is a thoroughly socialist enterprise. We lose several hundred dollars a year, and we make no profit whatever because we provide free service to a number of the members of the community. We have one subscriber who pays us \$2.25 a month. So I am really fulfilling the functions of a public utility which, to date, the B.C. Telephone Company has not wished to assume, although I have suggested to the company on a number of occasions that it would be very nice if they would purchase our company, and give this profit free service.

**Mr. Choquette:** Would the hon. member permit another question. I am wondering whether the hon. member would easily accept the nationalization of his own company?

**Mr. Herridge:** Yes, that is what I am getting at. We would be delighted. We are carrying it on at considerable loss because of our public spiritedness, which we can scarcely afford.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I support the principle of the argument put forward by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm, and I can see from the nodding heads that he has many other converts to this principle in the Progressive Conservative party. This shows that you cannot judge the political philosophy of parties today, whether they be Conservative or Liberal; it depends so much on the individual nowadays. But I for one, and I know I also speak for the members of my party, am very pleased to see this conversion to our political philosophy and their advocacy of the same in the House of Commons. We trust that serious consideration will be given by the persons concerned, particularly the people of Ontario, to bringing this company under public ownership so that the profits remain in Canada, the control returns to Canada, so Canadians will also have full control over the services. I do not criticize any officers of the company under these circumstances; they are simply performing their duties under a free enterprise, profit seeking system. In conclusion, I did not intend to speak in this debate, but my heart was warmed and thrilled on listening to the

speech of the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make concerning Bill No. S-27 respecting The Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

In principle, this bill is rather simple, as noted by several other members who have spoken before me, because it only requests an increase in the maximum number of directors from 15 to 20, that is five new directors.

Now, this bill has not yet been considered by the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines. In my opinion, several items could have been cleared up before it is passed tonight.

We would like to know the number of capital shares of this company at present, the Canadian shares and the American shares. We would also like to know the names of the directors of this company. We would like amendments to be brought in after explanations have been given.

That is why we would like to have more time to consider this bill, since the last paragraph provides that the majority of the directors shall reside in Canada. In my opinion, it is not so much the appointment of five other directors which is important but rather the number of new shares which will be necessary to get those directors elected.

Indeed, if the company has developed—and I must admit that it gives good service in general, although there may be some places in Quebec or elsewhere in Canada where the service is not quite as good—it should be able to appoint five new directors if it is authorized to do so.

This company will be able, at the same time, to look carefully into the complaints made in the house today.

I do not agree at all with the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm who suggests—

**Mr. Choquette:** He is not the only one.

**Mr. Rondeau:** And not necessarily with the hon. member for Lotbinière who suggests that the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm is actually urging that the Bell Telephone Company of Canada should be nationalized.

As a matter of principle, we have always been against the nationalization of companies,