

day. This is a public bill by a private member. Also, debate will continue on Senator Croll's inquiry respecting Senate reform.

I am not in a position to say definitely what other legislation will reach us next week, but we should have Bill C-197, to amend the Immigration Appeal Board Act, and perhaps one or two others.

Motion agreed to.

## THE SENATE

### TELEPHONE SERVICE DELAYS—QUESTION

**Hon. Donald Cameron:** Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government if he could initiate some steps to have something done about the most unsatisfactory situation with respect to the long distance telephone service, certainly as far as Western Canada is concerned. I apologize for not giving him notice of this, but there is no rush about it.

For example, on Tuesday, July 3, at 11.13 in the morning, I tried to get through to Calgary. I rang 151 and that phone rang from 11.13 to 11.30, with no answer from the local operator in Ottawa. I complained to the supervisor and she said the operators were busy. At 5.41 p.m. on that same day I tried to get the same call through. The phone rang consistently from 5.41 until 6 o'clock, at which time I hung up.

That is the sort of thing that has been going on. Whenever one picks up the telephone and dials 151 to get to Western Canada, it takes from 3 to 7 minutes—and the other day it was 17 and 19 minutes—before anyone answers. They say they are busy, so there must be something seriously wrong with Bell Canada's operation. I think it is high time something was done about it.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Honourable senators, Bell Canada is in the private sector, of course, but I will certainly do what I can to accommodate Senator Cameron who, I know, is a sincere and devoted user of the telephone system.

**Hon. Mr. Benidickson:** Honourable senators, I am not a great user of the telephone service. I am an Ottawa resident most of the time, and a part-time resident of Kenora-Rainy River, and I think you will be interested in my experience. This very morning I spoke to Mrs. Carrière, the representative of Bell Canada, and I told her that we as a Senate do not want second-class service. I will leave it at that.

• (1410)

[Translation]

## VIETNAM

### DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO CANADIAN OFFICERS ATTACHED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION—QUESTION

**Hon. Mr. Asselin:** Honourable senators, to get back to the question period, I have a question for the government leader.

I would like to know what the government is doing about the search for the Canadian members of the control commission being held prisoners by the Viet Cong? Have

there been any further developments? Has the government succeeded in locating their whereabouts?

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** There has been no news since yesterday's statement to this House, but I think that I will have something to say on the matter later in the day, and if I have the opportunity I will then answer the question more fully.

[Later:]

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** Honourable senators, with the permission of the house may I return to the question period?

**Some Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** In reply to the question put to me by Senator Asselin at the beginning of the sitting, I have received the following information: We are encouraged by recent events. Though in the last five days we have had no new information on the actual whereabouts of Captain Patten and Captain Thomson, the discussions being held between the ICCS and the representatives of the PRG in Saigon, are now showing promise that their return can be arranged. The Canadian delegation is vigorously continuing its efforts, both within the ICCS and in direct contacts with the PRG representatives. An ICCS team is now being organized with a view to recovering the two officers, and we are awaiting news about this. For the moment we have no further information. We shall inform this house as soon as the government has received any more news.

[English]

## COMMUNICATIONS

### LAUNCHING OF ANIK II OF TELESAT CANADA—DEBATE CONCLUDED

The Senate resumed from Wednesday, May 23, the adjourned debate on the inquiry of Senator Grosart calling the attention of the Senate to the launching of Anik II of Telesat Canada at Cape Kennedy, Florida, on Friday, 20th April, 1973.

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat:** Honourable senators, it had been my intention to speak in glowing terms about communications within Canada, but when I heard Senator Cameron's initial comments a moment ago, I thought I might have to revise my speech for the afternoon. However, I find that Senator Cameron's complaint is really one about government service or Bell Canada service of an internal nature, and not one concerning Anik II or the very fine accomplishments of Telesat and of Canada in the communications field.

[Translation]

I would like to add a few words to those of Senator Grosart, my leader Senator Martin, and Senator Buckwold. Their contributions to this debate are very important, for communications are a matter of major importance for the well-being of our country. Geographically, ours is the second largest country in the world, and with a small population scattered across the country, it is essential that we have an excellent system of communications. I would like to congratulate Senator Grosart for proposing this debate, which has allowed us to study the matter and to see how Canada has, in fact, taken the lead in this field.

[English]

Senator Grosart has covered in detail just what Anik II has accomplished in order to provide a better communica-