

Telesat Canada Act

certain risks which an individual, small investor might feel he could not take. If hon. members look at the bill as a whole and particularly at the section dealing with insurance of investments abroad they will see that there is adequate recognition of the political responsibilities that must be involved in the operation of certain aspects of the corporation's work. That responsibility is noted in the bill. It rests on the government and the government takes the responsibility for making certain decisions.

I am pleased with the generally warm reception this bill has received. I know the officials most closely associated with the operation of the Export Credits Insurance Act will be delighted in committee to go into specific detail with hon. members concerning the past very useful operation of the act.

Mr. Schreyer: May I ask a question of the minister? Perhaps he might take it as notice and reply in writing or in some other way. Do the provisions of Bill C-183 preclude the corporation from providing insurance with respect to ocean shipment? I am referring to marine insurance. Would that not help to promote trade?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I believe that that specific matter is not within the ambit of the bill. However, I will ask for an opinion on the matter and speak to the hon. member about it.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

● (5:30 p.m.)

TELESAT CANADA ACT**MEASURE ESTABLISHING CORPORATION FOR TELECOMMUNICATION BY SATELLITE**

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Minister of Communications) moved that Bill C-184, to establish a Canadian corporation for telecommunication by satellite be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I want to move an amendment to the motion changing the standing committee from the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts. If the house will be good enough to waive the normal notice, we could put the amendment later.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: My suggestion would be that in future it would be more orderly to move the amendment after debate on the motion. If it is the pleasure of the house I might read the amendment now. It reads:

That the motion for second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications of Bill C-184, an Act to establish a Canadian corporation for telecommunication by satellite, be amended by substituting for the words "Standing Committee on Transport and Communications" the words, "Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts."

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, couldn't this be a house order that we all agree to without any loss of time?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it so agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is so ordered.

Mr. Kierans: Mr. Speaker, the legislation before the house for its consideration and approval is Bill C-184, an act to establish a Canadian corporation for telecommunication by satellite. This bill, perhaps because it combines two glamorous fields, space and communications, has received a considerable amount of publicity. It was also the subject of many questions by hon. members when the estimates of my department were before the Committee on Broadcasting a month ago, and before the Committee on Transport and Communications last December. Hence hon. members are familiar with many aspects of the project. However, this bill moves a significant and critical step further. It translates theory into practice and refines plans and programs into binding legal terminology. To explain this terminology and practice will, I must warn and apologize to hon. members, require a speech of some length.

In one sense, Mr. Speaker, Bill C-184 is an exceptionally simple item of legislation. The title, which I have just cited, describes the bill in all its essentials. It will establish a Canadian corporation, to be called Telesat Canada, which will develop, own and operate a domestic communications satellite system.

In another sense, however, Bill C-184 is highly complex. The type of corporation proposed is unique in this country. It goes beyond the precedents set by the Panarctic Corporation in this country and by COMSAT in the United States by combining into a single entity three interests or groups: the government; private industry, which in this instance means the common carriers; and the