

Railway Act

parties engaged in various disciplines throughout the country.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask leave of the House to have a document setting out the work of the telecommission printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Kierans: There are copies in English and in French.

[*Editor's Note: For text of document referred to see Appendix A.*]

Mr. Kierans: When the work is completed and evaluated, toward the end of next year, the government will make known its general intentions on telecommunications policy and legislation. We do not pretend that such policy can be fixed in all respects or endure for a long period of time; the art is too fluid and concepts are being challenged continuously. However, it will be essential to have a sufficient degree of stability to allow the industry to continue their long term planning with certainty.

I think I have said enough about the general position in which we find ourselves, and where we plan to go during the next few years. If developments were not so rapid, I could stop here and have this regarded as a progress report on our activities. However, nothing stands still.

Among the many developments taking place in the telecommunications industry few are more striking than the growth of private wire services. They have been growing at the rate of up to 20 per cent a year and today the private wire services of federally regulated companies account for some \$90 million. This rate of growth will not only continue but will increase particularly as a result of the development of computer service companies which operate on-line time-shared computers linked to distant customers by communication systems. The present value of all types of computers installed in Canada is estimated at about \$800 million and is forecast to exceed \$1 billion by the end of 1970.

The development of private wire networks is important in itself. It is important also in relation to the general networks which are regulated in the public interest, through private networks are, at present, not so regulated. The same communication companies operate both regulated networks and unregulated private networks. In the case of CN-CP, for example, close to 75 per cent of the revenue

[Mr. Kierans.]

of this company derives from its private wire offerings.

● (4:00 p.m.)

It is inherently unsatisfactory for a body such as the CTC to be charged with regulating only one position of a particular company's business. In terms of the rates charged to users, the relationship between the regulated and unregulated operations of a company can be decisive. In this connection, I should mention that the CTC in its recent decision on the rate application by Bell Canada requested that company to produce a revenue and cost breakdown both of its regulated and its unregulated operation.

[*Translation*]

Most hon. members are aware, I am sure, of the enormous possibilities of electronic data processing. Before long, computer systems will cover the whole country and will be used extensively for storing, distributing and communicating information as well as scientific, medical, educational, legal, accounting statistics and others. Already, improvements which will increase considerably the storing and research capacity of computers can be foreseen. Used jointly with today's highly complex telecommunication system, the whole thing becomes a powerful instrument which, well managed, may strongly influence Canada's development. In that respect, the proposed amendment is designed to enable the Commission to determine an equitable rate applicable to the private wires which intervene in computer communications with other services, and to make sure that all users of the private wire service will get equitable non discriminatory treatment. Such an amendment will entitle the Canadian Transport Commission to examine the complete range of the activities carried out by the telecommunications companies falling under its jurisdiction. To that end, the definitions "telegraph toll" and "telephone toll" are amended by clause 1 of the bill.

The charges collected by the cable television firms from their customers are expressly excluded from the jurisdiction of the Canadian Transport Commission, since they come under the Canadian Radio Television Commission.

[*English*]

I have much pleasure in moving the second reading of this bill.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the minister