

families know they are going to be stuck 10 on a line. Sometimes when they need a doctor the line is busy and they cannot get through.

When people in my community want telephone service and they ask Bell to instal it, Bell says it will cost \$7,000. I know this is not a lot of money to Liberals on the other side, but to people in my constituency \$7,000 is a heck of a lot of money to instal a telephone. Yet I am asked to accept Bell's good will when they say that in 1982, or at some other time in the future, rural service in my constituency, as well as across northern Ontario and northern Quebec, will be improved.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Where are all the Conservatives?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** The Tories are so interested in this bill that not one of them is here.

Nothing that Bell Canada has done in the past has convinced me that I should place any trust in their breast beating and their promises that they will put in improved rural service in northern Ontario and Quebec by 1982 onwards.

I am also opposed to the bill because Bell Canada is interested only in one thing. The controller I met the other day told me that it was extremely important that they have a three star rating. He says they have to have three stars, two stars or one star, but they are trying for three stars.

When I was a teacher we used to give the best readers in the class three stars; they had to read two pages without a mistake. If someone could read two pages with one mistake, they would get two stars. If they could read two pages with three mistakes, they got one star. But they all got stars, Mr. Speaker; that was a great pat on the back and it certainly gave them some encouragement. So I asked this controller from Bell Canada, "If you have not got a three star rating, surely one star will get you some money on the market? Perhaps it will not get you a lot of money, but you might be able to borrow \$150 million instead of \$300 million". He replied: "Yes, Mr. Rodriguez, but

### *Bell Canada*

then we might have to reschedule the non-urban telephone service if we do not have the money". That is the kind of threat to which they resort, Mr. Speaker.

As my colleague from Sault Ste. Marie pointed out, instead of all this flying around in jets and spending millions of dollars on highfaluting living, we should spend the money on improving rural telephone service. Nothing which Bell has said to me in meetings with my colleague and with the hon. member for Scarborough East (Mr. O'Connell) with respect to its credit rating, has convinced me otherwise. I think it now has a two star credit rating, and with that I think it can borrow a heck of a lot of money.

I am very concerned about the lack of input by parliament, by the elected people of this country, in terms of directing the growth and development of large corporations. Are these large corporations growing only for themselves? Are they saying to us, "Our aims are your aims? What is good enough for Bell must also be good enough for the people of Canada. What is good enough for INCO has to be good enough for the people of Canada"? I do not subscribe to that philosophy, Mr. Speaker. I think Liberals and Tories subscribe to that. They call it staying out of the market place. I believe that government has the responsibility to be slap in the middle of the market place. It must be there to direct investment. If we give Bell permission to increase its capitalization, in effect we have given it holus-bolus free rein to wheel and deal in the market place, instead of telling Bell that it should put in this kind of service by such and such a date.

I see it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I should like to call it six o'clock so I can take this up again next week.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. It being six o'clock, pursuant to order made Thursday, October 27, 1977, this House stands adjourned until Monday, November 7, 1977, at two o'clock p.m.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Special Order.