

*Supply—National Defence*

has been provided me that eventually we will attempt to send a satellite aloft to provide telecommunication for defence purposes only. However, this subject can also be related to other fields of communication essential to the country.

I am very conscious of this question of telecommunications because some areas of the part of the country that I represent have very little television service, some have no television service and some have bad television service. The people in these areas would appreciate the opportunity of being educated along with the rest of the country which have this facility made available to them.

Someone behind me says that perhaps we are lucky, but I suggest that with a satellite service perhaps we would be luckier in the sense that we would not be restricted to one particular program. We would not be subjected to what is at times the corruption of the C.B.C, though there are other times when their programs are good. I must say that my impression is that some of the programming is not too good; but regardless of the type of programming this is an area which requires urgent investigation.

● (8:50 p.m.)

We must allow notional research or defence research boards, which have scientists trained in this field, to act. A few days ago the Prime Minister said that the Minister of Transport has the responsibility of co-ordinating work in this field. When talking with the minister I realized how unexplored the field is. We seem to be waiting to see what will develop. We have the technicians and the scientists to work in this field, and we have organizations such as Northern Electric and Bell Telephone which can be useful to us. We can create a vehicle to transmit messages, but we lack the capability of sending it into orbit. For this capability we must go to other nations. If the United States does not want to help us, or if it feels that our satellite may take up a spot in the heavens they might be interested in later, then we shall have to put up a satellite. In one sense we are at the mercy of countries such as the United States. At the moment I have no reason for believing they will not co-operate with us.

This capability is necessary for our defence, as well for the entire question of telecommunications. We must talk to nations other than the United States. Several have the capacity to send vehicles into orbit. From my

understanding of the problem, sending a vehicle into orbit does not require much more capacity than we now have. Nevertheless as satellites become more complicated they become heavier. We shall not have them in orbit for several years.

Our research at the moment is very limited. I understand that the attitude of our government is not to allow grants to those working in the research field in this sphere. I am thinking of the McGill University space research institute. It is essential, if we feel that communication between all parts of Canada is necessary, and if all parts of the country must participate in education, to consider carefully every aspect of this field. Whether they serve national defence or education, satellites are important. I do not know the technical problems, but I think that one satellite can transmit many messages simultaneously—telephone, television and radio messages, as well as others. In this area we should be more actively engaged than we are at present. More funds should be made available. Other countries are working rapidly in this field. If we wait patiently to see what will happen we might suddenly find another nation occupying that area we had thought to occupy in the first place.

We should have a vehicle to unite the north and south of our country, and to transmit from Vancouver to Halifax. It could transmit educational programs to our northern areas, where we are spending millions of dollars trying to provide an education for the inhabitants. The north is developing rapidly. When we think of the decline in the death rate, and increasing education among Indians, we must realize that our population will continue to grow. We must give our northern peoples an opportunity to see the rest of the country. We must show them that other parts of Canada welcome them. Only through this medium will they realize that. Once we provide those people with the opportunity to see the rest of the country, to see for themselves what exists beyond their own area of 50, 100, or 200 miles to either side of them, they will realize that they are part of the country. There can be no better way of spending money than on this type of research.

Item agreed to.

**Mr. Benson:** May we revert to vote 15g, under the Department of National Defence?

15g. Operation and maintenance and construction or acquisition of buildings, works, land and major equipment and development for the Canadian forces, \$15,000,000.