

now given to other private communications as required by recent technology advancement.

In other words, someone who uses a cellular telephone is entitled to the same privacy as someone who uses a regular telephone. As it is and as my colleague from the NDP has mentioned, it is definitely possible for someone to listen to a conversation between two people. There are technologies that can be used to allow that particular individual to overhear a conversation between two people.

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If you are making a long-distance call to another city and using the regular wire line to the central office, at one point or another that particular conversation will go up in the air whether we use a microwave or other type of transmission system. Once it is up in the air it is up for grabs and anybody can listen to it.

The previous legislation protects those people who use regular telephones, but does not protect those who use cellular phones. The government is adding the cellular telephone to the list of equipment protected by the existing legislation. It will also be protected by the proposed legislation.

I am interested in this legislation on cellular telephones because I think the cellular telephone is like any other piece of telecommunications equipment in our society. It makes us proud, as Canadians, that our industry is doing extremely well in the field of telecommunications. I would say Canada is the number one country in the world in terms of the telecommunications industry and the industry's capabilities in high technology fields. When it comes to economic renewal and economic development, it is doing extremely well. That is something we should be very proud of as policy makers and legislators. Every time there is an opportunity for us to have a new breakthrough, we should grab that opportunity and try to help the industry prosper and move forward.

You will be happy to learn that the cellular telephone industry has grown at an incredible rate here in Canada, perhaps more than any other country in the world. This industry presently employs more than 3,000 people and its annual revenue is about \$500 million per year. The transmission system is the largest anywhere in the world.

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In fact, Cellnet Canada has the longest corridors of cellular service anywhere in the world. The first corridor stretches from Windsor, Ontario to Halifax, Nova Scotia, which is over 2,500 kilometres or in excess of 232,000 square kilometres of continuous cellular service. That is a lot of space. A second corridor stretches from the Rocky Mountains to Ontario and covers in excess of 1,600 kilometres or 120,000 square kilometres of cellular coverage. That is the largest coverage that exists anywhere in the world.

There are close to one million subscribers to the cellular systems in Canada today. Considering that the industry came into the market only about eight years ago, that is a tremendous number of people who have moved to this technology. Cellular telephones are no longer like the ham radio or CB radio that people might use for fun or entertainment. It is an instrument that many people use today for business. Everybody in this House agrees that small businesses generate over 80 per cent of jobs anywhere in Canada, and over 54 per cent of people who use cellular telephones actually work for companies that employ less than 15 people. Most of these people are professionals, whose average age is about 40 years and average household income about \$63,000 a year. We are talking about people who use cellular telephones for business and not fun.

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Most of these people work in construction, manufacturing, real estate and the business service area. When two business people are discussing business over the telephone, making a transaction or trying to inquire or exchange information, one of the last things they want is for Joe or Sue on the other end of the line to listen to their conversation and try to butt in on the deal or get wonderful bits of information.

I can understand the frustration that exists now in the community and the concern about lack of privacy. Of course, some people are going to say the purpose of this piece of legislation is to help out the industry and the cellular telephone companies. Well, of course it is. We should be proud of the fact that as legislators we are doing everything we can to help our industry prosper. The community is also demanding the same kind of protection for cellular telephones as exists for normal telephones.