

Telecommunication Corporation Act

bring wider representation and making a stronger board. It has also been found that with five directors it has been difficult at times to have a quorum. If there is one man ill and another unavoidably absent, the directors are down to a bare quorum and it is thought that is not sufficient to deal with some of the questions of importance that the board of directors have to deal with from time to time.

With regard to the capital requirements, at this moment I do not foresee any need for additional capital, but there has been such rapid change in the whole field of communications that I am not going to preclude that possibility. I think it would not be responsible to do so, because these contracts are quite costly so far as capital requirements are concerned, although they have turned out to be very profitable from the point of view of earning capacity.

Mr. Howe (Wellington-Huron): Mr. Chairman, in connection with the financing we are considering at the present time the resolution uses the words "co-ordination with nations outside the British commonwealth". That brings up the question I asked first of all. Are the cables already built to these other countries? If not, are the other countries going to assist in the building of them? Are they going to pay for the right to connect to the main cable across the Pacific which will be opened in a short time, and also the one that goes across the Atlantic?

Mr. McIlraith: The cables I have been talking about are for the most part already in position and it is a matter of making connecting arrangements at the terminal point. That is the way the cable business operates. I took the illustration of the Pacific cable. I have every reason to suspect that there will be requests for connection by other cable companies so they may use our facilities for communications to Canada. But we do not go into cable operation as such in these other countries. In other words, it is not a facility we provide in those countries. The situation is not unlike the telephone companies internally in Canada. You can make a telephone connection with another company in various ways, but you have your terminal point at which you receive the other facility.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Côté (Chicoutimi): Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I will say a few words with respect to the introduction of this resolution, which I find very interesting. This resolution tends to create more intimate relations or ties with the other countries of the world.

[*Mr. McIlraith.*]

This offers me, at the same time, the opportunity to point out, as did the minister, that it has been decided to increase the number of directors of the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation:

The increase by two of the number of directors of that corporation.

This also gives me a further opportunity of making a suggestion. Would the minister be of the opinion that a French speaking Canadian be appointed to such directorships, in order to restore the communications between the two most important groups in Canada.

Since we are talking about communications, I may say—and no pun intended—that it would be a fine opportunity to restore the communications between the two groups which made this country.

I would also like to draw the attention of the minister to an experience which I had last year, when I was delegate to the inter-parliamentary union convention at Brasilia, in Brazil. I recall that we were then practically without any contact with Canada; the only link we had with North America was through the United States embassy. Each morning that embassy would present us with a short release which allowed us to keep abreast of what was happening in North America, but we had absolutely nothing from Canada.

That is how I was able to realize that means of communication between our two countries are non-existent.

Brazil, which has a population of 75 million people, is a very large country; she is very friendly and I deplored the lack of means of communication between our two countries. It must be remembered that we were at that time at the peak of the Cuban crisis, and this interparliamentary conference had a deep influence on the settling of that crisis, but few newspapers mentioned that fact. The hon. senators with whom I was will certainly be able to confirm my statement; we were in contact with parliamentarians from communist countries, etc., and the congress of the interparliamentary union had a considerable influence in the settling of the Cuban issue as well as the firm stand taken, especially by the late president of the United States, who has been the victim of a tragic assassination a few days ago.

Our country must establish close relations with the largest republic in South America, "A Republica dos Estados Unidos do Brasil". This is most important, and that is why we must establish ties with this country through cables.

Mr. Perron: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few remarks on the advisability of