

Telesat Canada Act

and in the way that we are doing it. Above all, it will be a project that will help to knit together more closely this country and to narrow the gap in the differences in living standards between those Canadians who live amid the rigours of the frontier and those who live amid the comforts of the cities. In essence, the domestic communications satellite system will reflect, and will help to fulfil, the substance of confederation.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I begin by extending my congratulations to the minister in his new robes as Minister of Communications (Mr. Kierans). I should like to thank him also for his courtesy in providing me with a copy of his speech which I have followed with great care. My colleague on the right says that the minister did not send it by mail because I got it. That is the kind of unkindness that would never come to my mind.

I want to assure the minister that it is my intention to speak briefly. Perhaps this is so because there are things in the Post Office Department to which he should be giving his attention, and I do not want to delay unduly the passage of this legislation. If I were as nasty as the editors of the Winnipeg *Free Press* and the Oshawa *Times*, I might suggest it would be a good thing for the Post Office to involve my friend the minister in communications for a while. But I would not go along with that at all.

I want to congratulate the minister in a general way for bringing forward this measure. He is right; it is very important. He is right also that many of us have been asking him about it for a long time. However, I was not quite sure he was right when, with the natural pride of legislative paternity, he suggested that the corporation was ahead of time. I believe in fact that it is a little behind the times. His colleague, the unofficial minister of science, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury), declared in March of 1968 that the expectation was that this bill would be ready last fall. To that extent the present minister is running behind the hopeful forecasts of the President of the Treasury Board.

There is much to which one might react in this very interesting speech. I was moved by the minister's concern for the communication needs of the people who live in the remote areas of our country, and the thought went through my mind that in certain remote areas of the country the same minister is quite capable of closing down post offices, telescoping rural deliveries and, thus on terrestrial

[Mr. Kierans.]

levels slowing down the process of communications. I was impressed also when he indicated that the proper way to proceed was as he mentioned at page 5 of his statement. He said that we can afford neither to bite off more than we can chew, nor, by being too timid, to totally lose our taste for competition.

At that moment he sounded like a Progressive Conservative—cautious, yet forward looking. I was deeply moved when he spoke about the opportunities which this corporation gave Canadian citizens for investment. I wondered if the Canada Development Corporation, which has taken a bow but never gone up the aisle these many years, was in fact going to emerge in a new form, and that through this opportunity the dreams of his dear friend, Mr. Walter Gordon, would find expression in this particular way. We will see later on, as we hear several more speeches from the throne, whether or not in fact this is to be the case.

I am impressed by some of the figures which the minister has produced. I never thought that he would go for a compact instead of a Cadillac. I hope that this is not short range economy and long range folly. This is an aspect we will have to look into a bit more fully.

I note certain deviations from that stern certainty which characterizes the minister when he describes the future use and the dates of development of the various channels. With regard to the whole bill, I suffered the kind of pangs which do not usually trouble me, and these were procedural ones. I wondered if in fact we were not dealing with a measure which should not be dealt with in the terms of this particular item. We do not have in this parliament a very long record of hybrid bills. The British have such a long tradition, and in fact the standing orders of Westminster have a place for hybrid bills. It would seem to me that we are dealing with something which would fit all the requirements of a hybrid bill or perhaps, since the minister is moving in scientific circles, I should say which would fit within the parameters of a hybrid bill. This bill combines the private and public sectors and might properly be treated in a somewhat different way from that which is ahead of us if this particular stage of the bill carries.

A hybrid bill is a public bill which affects private interests in such a way that if it were a private bill it would, under proper procedure, require preliminary notice to be served on affected parties. This bill has many of the