

Will the Minister exercise the authority which he has as the Minister of Communications and tell the CRTC that we do not want deregulation of the telephone industry, which will have a disastrous effect on the consumers?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises an obvious question of very great importance. The Hon. Member knows that the CRTC receives applications from various telephone companies across the country on a number of subjects, and that the Government's power to intervene is usually on appeal. The Government does not at the moment have power of direction over the CRTC. I would very much encourage the Hon. Member to discuss this matter with the critic for the Official Opposition and to seek quick passage of Bill C-20, which would give Parliament and the Government of the day the opportunity to look at this question and to issue directives to the CRTC on the type of architecture we want to have for our telecommunications and broadcasting system in Canada.

Up to now I do not have the co-operation of the Official Opposition in order to bring this Bill forward and pass it quickly before the House rises. I would very much hope that we could do so in order to allow us to make substantial progress in ensuring that the elected representatives of the people are the ones who decide on the architecture of the system.

BELL CANADA—LOCAL SERVICE RATES

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister knows that the next step to deregulation in the United States, and one which is being considered by Bell Canada, is local measured service which, again, would mean very sharp increases for the consumers, particularly for the elderly and the sick. Would the Minister indicate to the CRTC, and to the people of Canada, that the Government of Canada opposes that kind of idea which is now receiving support in the United States?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, once again the Hon. Member raises a question of fundamental concern, and one which Canadians will certainly be debating with a great deal of interest in the years to come. I feel that this type of question should be debated in this forum and in parliamentary committees. One way of doing so is the passage of Bill C-20 which—

Mr. Dick: What is the government view?

Mr. Fox: —the Leader of the Official Opposition wants us to split in two parts, basically allowing part of it to go through, but not allowing the part to go through which would allow Parliament, and the Government of the day, to have an influence on this type of question—

Mr. Dick: What is the Government's view?

Mr. Fox: —instead of a quasi-judicial body. I would very much hope that, through the Hon. Member's questions, the

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House Leader of the Official Opposition would be sensitized to this question. It is of fundamental importance to the type of telecommunications industry we will have in this country, a fact which the Official Opposition does not yet realize and fails to accept.

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[Translation]

POOLS

CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—ALLEGED DIFFICULTY IN SECURING PRIZE MONEY

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport).

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, in the last few days the Minister has been telling us about his new system for Sport Select, the sports pool, and he tried to prove that the system was foolproof. Yesterday, a man from Laval won the incredible sum of \$20.65. He had to go to two gas stations, plus four corner stores, to get his money! Considering the fact that ticket vendors were selected on the basis of competence and not party affiliation, could the Minister inform the House today whether he is going to comment on the problems encountered by this lucky winner in collecting his \$20.65?

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for Joliette for giving me this opportunity to mention some of the extraordinary things that have been happening across this country. For instance, one participant in Prince Edward Island won \$25,000, and after that, because he was also a ticket vendor for the provincial lottery, his licence to sell tickets was taken away. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that people from the provincial lotteries across Canada, with the support of our friends opposite, are blackmailing storekeepers. They order them to stop selling sports pool tickets unless they want to lose their ticket vending machine or, if they do not have one, they will be at the top of the list, so they will never get a terminal, and then they can never get a lottery licence! And this is the kind of blackmail being perpetrated by our friends opposite! These are guerrilla tactics!

SYSTEM OF CLAIMING PRIZES—REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE—CORPORATION'S PROFITABILITY

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister's reply is almost obscene. I was just asking him on behalf of people who bought a few tickets for the sports pool... I think the Minister must be responsible for seeing to it that those \$20.65 are paid! He certainly cannot accuse us of being responsible for that kind of poor administration!

In the circumstances, Canadians would like to know, Mr. Speaker, and I think the Minister has forgotten to give us his