

*Radio Act**[Translation]*

Since that time, the world of radiocommunications has evolved significantly. Both the nature and pace of change have been startling. The *Radio Act* has not kept pace with this progress. A revised act is therefore necessary to manage the spectrum environment in a way that truly reflects the new world of radiocommunications in Canada.

Since this spectrum 20/20 symposium, held in Montreal in 1987, a great deal of effort has been spent consulting with industry members. We have worked with them to develop and draft appropriate amendments to reflect the reality and needs of spectrum management into the 21st century.

Provisions of the radiocommunication bill tabled on April 12 serve to: repeal or revise obsolete provisions and definitions, and increase the flexibility of the act's application.

The amendments which follow are of particular importance in managing the spectrum. They would allow consideration of other than technical factors in authorizing radio use in Canada; considerations like the potential impact of a radio tower in a community; authorize the establishment, where necessary, of minimum technical standards for radio apparatus, for non-radio equipment capable of causing radio interference, and for radio-sensitive devices, to prevent interference with one another; require compliance to these technical standards, not by consumers who may have innocently bought substandard goods, but rather by the manufacturer, importer or retailer; Strengthen enforcement of compliance by providing for increased fines and administrative recourse rather than having to apply criminal code court procedures.

[English]

Much of this effort will seem banal to many. Managing the spectrum for the benefit of Canadians requires a great deal of behind the scenes housekeeping and maintenance. Keeping the airwaves clear so they can be used for economic growth, technological development, recreation, national security and personal safety is a demanding and often unappreciated task. The health and growth of the radio communications industry is vital if we are to continue building our economic prosperity

and competitive success among industrialized nations. The passage of this Bill by Parliament will ensure an environment in which communications will truly benefit all Canadians in every part of Canada.

I know that there is, as the Minister has suggested, some sense of support for the objectives of this Bill, it being of a very technical and non-controversial nature. I look forward to its referral to a legislative committee.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Madam Speaker, although it was a long wait, I am glad the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Member for Edmonton Southwest (Mr. Edwards), was able to rise to speak on this Bill. I believe the Parliamentary Secretary made a carefully crafted and well thought out presentation about what is essentially quite a dry, technical subject for the general population. I hope that people interested listened to the Hon. Member, and if they did not listen to what he said, I hope that they will read what he said and will learn about what we all take so much for granted. We have access to television sets, radios, car telephones, garage door openers, microwave ovens, the things that make life very simple to live.

• (1230)

There is a new way to sell real estate today. In some major cities you just drive along in your car, and there is a low frequency band that allows you to flick on a switch to be told the story of the internal layout of the home, the price, the description, et cetera. That does not happen out of magic. That comes from a carefully controlled, managed and very precious resource which is used almost to its fullest capacity. In fact, if I recall, when we were first looking at this whole issue we had some serious concerns about the CBs used by farmers and truckers. These all fall under this particular Bill. Even things that medical technology has developed fall under this Bill, such as heart pacemakers. That is why efficient and effective management of this spectrum is so valuable and vital.

I owe a measure of thanks to the Department of Communications and its very competent staff for knowing what is behind the complex language of this very technical 18-page Bill. I thoroughly enjoyed having it explained to me and to members of my staff. This side of the House is very supportive of the content of this Bill. It has been carefully considered. It has international and national implications. It has very important financial