

Government Organization

insist that the millions he needs be provided by the federal bank, carrying the administrative costs only, and not at the fantastic rates of interest which are current today. Such rates represent nothing less than exploitation of the people and serve to throw out of balance the country's whole economy.

Mr. Chairman, if this government company is unable to find the necessary funds at a reasonable rate of interest, we will oppose this program, because it is a matter of saving the nation rather than putting it in a strait-jacket. It is not fitting to compel the present and future generations to pay eternal debts. If those debts were reasonable, as well as the rates of interest, we would agree, but we are primarily for progress. And as I was saying earlier, we can never do enough to promote development and education for our people.

We have an urgent need of satellites, these modern means of communication, but if it is physically possible to establish them, it should also be possible to finance them at a reasonable rate of interest, in the same way as external aid, by lending them the money, free of interest, for 50 or 70 years.

I think that the same thing could be done with the telecommunication services needed by the Canadian people. We agree with the minister that they should be established, but on the other hand we do not want them to create hardship through the imposition of more taxes on the taxpayer.

That is the situation now. We should be able to provide these communication media for the country through low interest loans. The minister should work in this direction by including in his program—

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

I just heard the hon. member for Compton make an incorrect statement, and knowing his concern for truthfulness, I wish to give him some information so that he will no longer make wrong statements.

• (3:50 p.m.)

He speaks of companies which are taking unfair advantage of the government. However, the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation is a Crown corporation which never showed a deficit. Moreover, it was about to ask the government for \$5 million this year to ensure its normal expansion and it has just stated that it would not need it and that it can operate through its own

returns. Thus, the hon. member is not entitled to say that government companies are taking unfair advantage of the government.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the hon. member for Trois-Rivières is a newcomer in this house, but I believe he is not very conversant with that matter, because I can refer to several Crown corporations that do not succeed in operating by themselves, that run at a loss and are financed with the tax payers' money. If he is not aware of any, I am. So that is how I reply to the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain).

I should also like to deal with community antennas. Someone said that the satellites will put out signals which will be picked up by community antennas. Once again, our friends of the New Democratic party say that those community antennas should belong to the state.

Several community antennas are now being operated by private enterprise, and they give very good service at fairly reasonable rates. I do not feel the state should step in and take over the responsibility of controlling everything.

The state should allow private enterprise to enter the field of communications by community antenna and get its share of the profits to be made. Indeed, individuals have the right to make a living. The government is not the only one who has the right to live, levy taxes and take money away from everyone. Private enterprise must find the money somewhere with which to pay government taxes. It is unthinkable that the government should take over all the profitable businesses, leaving only crumbs to private industry, and then depend on taxes from private enterprise to operate state undertakings.

Private industry has the right to live and to make reasonable profit. It has the right to exercise controls and to do business with other profitable enterprises. The State gets hold of everything. In the provinces for example, every efficient business is under the control of the provincial government.

The government controls the buying and selling of alcoholic drinks. It also controls electricity. Then, the citizens are taxed to pay for these controls and nothing is left to them. In short, they have no longer the right to live.