

remarks will take about an hour and a quarter, and it is now ten minutes past five. I wonder if I should proceed at this time.

Hon. Mr. Martin: Certainly. We will stay here, senator, and listen to you with interest.

[Translation]

Hon. Mr. Desruisseaux: Honourable senators, since this bill is of particular interest to Canadian citizens of both languages, I will speak to you both in English and in French.

Bill C-184 provides for the creation of a corporation for telecommunication by satellite.

Satellites are not something new to Canadians. Our country put a satellite in orbit in 1962, five years after the beginning of the space age. Canada ranked third then among space technicians, immediately after the U.S.S.R. and the United States. She has since maintained that place among nations.

The U.S.S.R. now has a system for telecommunication by satellite. The United States, on February 10, 1969, sent up the most powerful communication satellite of the western world. It will serve as a prototype for the establishment of an American satellite system for land, air and sea military communications. It will have a transmission capacity equivalent to 10,000 two-way telephone circuits. Its energy is provided by 60,000 glassy cells which convert solar energy and produce the 1,000 watts of electricity needed for its operation. It has five big antennas shaped like corkscrews and all the appearance of the most fantastic engines conceived by Jules Verne.

The proposed communication satellite for Canada will have a capacity of 3,000 two-way telephone circuits and six channels. As the satellite has a life span of seven to ten years, the Canadian corporation could anticipate replacing it by a bigger satellite to meet the needs then.

The idea of a communication satellite is not new in Canada.

As the president of the C.B.C., Mr. Davidson, said, his corporation has been watching closely new developments in the field of satellites since the beginning of this decade.

In fact, the C.B.C. was among the first to use a satellite in orbit in 1963, when it televised on its network the memorable Commonwealth Prime Ministers conference.

In the summer of 1966, Power Corporation and Niagara Television submitted a brief to the Board of Broadcast governors, requesting

approval of a corporation including, besides themselves, the Canadian government, the telephone and telecommunications companies, and the general public.

In September 1966, R.C.A. Victor submitted to the Science Secretariat a proposition entitled: A Canadian TV Network Satellite System, to be applied to a study on the upper atmosphere and on space programs in Canada.

In October 1966, Power Corporation and Niagara Television submitted a brief to the B.B.G. requesting authorization to establish telecommunication satellite network.

In December 1966, Ford Foundation submitted to the United States Federal Communications Commission a brief on the facilities for domestic communications by satellite.

During that same month, also, the corporation for telecommunication by satellite, Comsat, applied to the F.C.C. in the United States to operate in the United States a system of telecommunication by satellite. Again in December 1966, the American Telephone and Telegraph company submitted its report entitled: "An integrated system of telecommunication Space-Earth at the service of the United States."

In Canada, in February 1967, the Science Secretariat circulated the Chapman report on the upper atmosphere and on space programs.

In May 1967, the Trans-Canada telephone system and CN-CP Telecommunications submitted a report entitled "A Canadian system of telecommunication by satellite."

In July, the Prime Minister's office announced the creation of a group, headed by Dr. J. H. Chapman, for the study of satellites, with the purpose of considering the commitments and programs of Canada in connection with space, and studying our future needs and interests, in the light of technological progress permitting the use of outer space. Mr. Kierans stated that the group was entrusted with developing a telecommunication policy. The group has also interim priority objectives concerning urgent specific problems, but it must be noted that the main report of the study group will not be ready until next September. According to Mr. Kierans, the recommendations of the report will be the basis of amendments to the British North America Act.

In July and August 1967, the American corporation for telecommunication by satellite (Comsat) published two parallel reports of study programs entitled "The study of the multi-purpose satellite."