

*Government Organization*

one in this realm? The hon. Mr. Cardinal speaks of satellites as blackboards in the sky and refers to provincial competence and concern since culture and education are involved. Is there a growing acceptance of this point of view?

These are speculations one is prompted to make. While these are only speculations, there are important questions we should ask as we legislate the creation of the new Department of Communications. I like the forward-looking and splendid statements of intent regarding the telecommunications field, but I wonder about the actual functional scope and the planned activities of this new department. How involved, financially and otherwise, are we going to get in programs such as satellite development?

I am very interested in the domestic satellite program. The McIntosh report has become one of those hidden reports about which Mr. Patrick Nicholson wrote so graphically a few months ago. It has been prepared by a very competent and outstanding man. We have been expecting this report. Where is it? I agree with the minister that this is an important phase into which we are moving, and therefore we should know something about it. In January the minister assured an audience in Toronto that the bill would be introduced this spring to set up a satellite corporation. We have been told today by the people of British Columbia that spring is here. So where is the bill? I would like to know what Mr. McIntosh thinks of this whole operation.

Canadians are interested in knowing what this country is doing on the international scene. We talk about Canada competing for the sale of component parts of satellites and for recognition of our industrial and technological competence. There is perhaps an opportunity for industrial innovation and expansion. How did the Whitehead commission, if I may call it that, get along? Where is that report? That commission reported many months ago and as yet we have not received this information. A spokesman for the C.O.T.C. recently expressed the opinion that Canada should have a larger share of what is available in this particular field.

I also wonder what is being done in connection with intra-national problems. The Prime Minister stated the satellite program was a sort of 20th century railroad to sustain confederation. Unless we see some evidence of more thoughtful consideration of some people in the provinces who have an interest in some aspects of the satellite program, it may

not be such a unifying force as it could be. I am interested to know how much co-operation there is between technicians and technologists of Quebec and of Canada. These developments should be discussed before a situation arises resulting in conflict and controversy over something which could potentially be a great unifying agent. I hope there is nothing in the bill which will diminish the role of the C.O.T.C., a well established and important corporation. When I read Bill S-5 and certain clauses of the measure now before us, there seems at best to be an overlapping. It could at worst be pre-emption. This I would not like to see.

The powers of the C.O.T.C. are certainly ample. They are empowered to carry on the business of public communications, by cable, radio, telegraph, radiotelephone and any other means of telecommunication, between Canada and any other place. Their position should be secure. I listened to the minister's excellent speech on this whole program. The minister is a stimulating man. He speaks often and well, but frequently he speaks on many other subjects. It is a temptation at times to rise in the house to ask the Minister of National Defence how everything is going in the Post Office Department, but the rules would not allow it. I suppose it would be an impropriety to ask the Minister of National Defence to settle some of the problems developing in the Post Office Department.

**An hon. Member:** Ask him what he thinks of the five-day mail delivery.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Being a kindly man and having the highest regard for both ministers, I would not make such a flippant suggestion, but it does go through my mind.

**Mr. Woolliams:** It sort of follows the de Gaulle line.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** I am aware that I have limited time to speak on this very large bill. I am not going to say all that I would like to regarding the question of communications, but I would like to say a word about regulations. Every so often I note in the minister's speeches that he refers to the importance and need of control as we become more and more integrated in the so-called global village. The minister has stated we would not have regulations for regulations sake. I fervently hope not!

It is of the essence that we move quickly into the satellite field, not only because we need an exercise in technical competence for