

*Government Orders*

receive, to use it in a court of law. That is an important and very positive step.

Again, I believe strongly that the police departments must have the ability to wire their police officers so that they can be in constant voice communication when they are sent into extremely dangerous situations. That could be anything from a hostage taking to any kind of street battle. There has to be the ability for the conversations that are recorded as a result of that transmission to be used in a court of law for the furtherance of justice. At the same time I recognize the importance of ensuring that due process is considered so that it cannot be done at random. There has to be a just cause for the use of this procedure.

Let me turn to cellular phones. As I mentioned earlier I have always been of the belief that somebody is listening to every conversation I have no matter what phone I use. Whether it is a phone that fits into my pocket, one that is attached to my car or one that I plug into the wall at home, whether it is a direct line or one of those hands-free phones, somewhere out there someone is listening.

We are talking about degrees of accessibility. There are those phones that have a range of 100 or 200 feet. You can take it in the backyard when you are having a beer in the summertime. Within a certain radius of your home, if someone has the right kind of scanner, the right kind of receiver or in fact a similar hand-held unit they can listen to your conversation. In some cases they only get half of it but in other cases they get the whole thing.

The cellular phone is a broader distribution because of the very nature of the cellular system. If anybody can tune in to your frequency, and again it might just be half of the conversation anywhere within that cell, not only can they listen but they can also record it if that is their wish.

• (1845)

This legislation makes it illegal to use the information that may be overheard, to even acknowledge or to report that you have heard so and so talking to so and so about whatever. It is imperfect legislation, but then the existing laws for land lines, for overhearing people having conversations in their own homes is also imperfect. We need to recognize that.

I would love to see this House pass a law that required all cellular phones to be encrypted so that once the signal left the cell transmitter it would be in a scrambled form and would not be descrambled until it got into the set in my hands. Perhaps over time we can work toward that in a way that is inexpensive to the user.

In the meantime, this bill goes a long way to providing protection so that people who maybe are forgetting that the line is not secure or that maybe do not care but do not realize the ramifications will not find their names and their conversations in the headlines.

Obviously we are not all of the Royal Family calibre. We are not necessarily cabinet ministers. We have not been at the constitutional table. However, there may be business and personal matters that are of no business to anybody else. Because we are public figures or because it is a neat or sexy story, someone will decide to publish it. Or someone will decide to take the tape of that conversation and share it among their friends to a point where the retelling of the story becomes so distorted that reputations are damaged.

That is why I support this particular piece of legislation. I know there are some concerns about civil liberties. I recognize in committee that these matters will be dealt with in a very serious and appropriate way. We do have to be careful that in trying to protect certain rights of certain people that we do not override the rights of society as a whole. That is what democracy is all about: Finding that balance of not giving up one for the other but finding the even keel.

It is an important piece of legislation. I look forward to its passage at second reading and then on to committee where I know it will get excellent study by members of this House and then back to this House for third reading.

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to speak briefly on this piece of legislation. It is a progressive bill and addresses to a great extent many of the concerns in the community with respect to those who try to enforce the law and to the public at large.

I would like to speak on the aspects of the bill which deal with the cellular telephone. Specifically, this bill will try to give radiocommunication similar protection as is