

*Telegraphs Act*

if the hon. member were to ask me what was the total investment of Western Union and the answer is I do not know.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall this bill be now read the third time?

**Mr. Green:** No, at the next sitting.

**Mr. Marler:** Why at the next sitting? Second reading was two weeks ago.

**Mr. Green:** I submit it is not in order to do that.

**Mr. Lesage:** Of course it is in order; second reading was before yesterday.

**Mr. Marler:** It was two weeks ago.

**Mr. Green:** The committee stage is a part of the second reading. There can be only one stage carried on at the one time. Surely there is no intention to try to force this through in that way. The minister has his bill through the committee.

**Mr. Marler:** Mr. Speaker, this bill has been on the order paper since May 12. A debate occurred on second reading some weeks ago. The bill then went to the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines where the committee spent parts of three days, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, afternoon and evening and Friday morning and afternoon going through the bill from start to finish with the benefit of evidence from the two cable companies, Western Union and Commercial Cable. A whole week has gone by since the report of the committee. We have spent virtually the whole day going through the bill in committee. There have been no amendments made in committee and I believe that under the rules when no amendments have been made in committee a motion for third reading is perfectly in order. The alternative would be that it would be put off until next Monday.

Surely the hon. gentleman has nothing further to add on the motion for third reading that he has not already said today. It seems to me it is perfectly reasonable that I should ask for third reading

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I am, of course, governed by the provisions of standing order 75 and standing order 78, sub-paragraph 2.

Standing order 75 reads:

Every bill shall receive three several readings, on different days, previously to being passed.

The latter part of sub-paragraph 2 of standing order 78 reads:

When a bill is reported without amendment, it is forthwith ordered to be read a third time at such time as may be appointed by the house.

The minister having moved third reading I have no recourse other than to put the motion, of course.

**Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, it is very unusual for the government to follow a course of this kind; however, if it sees fit to do that I suppose we just have to make the best of things.

The official opposition are very much concerned about this bill because we believe a step is being taken which is very unsound. We believe the bill should have been stood over and further consideration given to it so that some plan could be worked out under which there would be full, free and unrestricted competition between the crown company, the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, and the private cable companies.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** The Americans.

**Mr. Green:** In Canada we have worked out a system of that kind in connection with our railways which I think has been very satisfactory. In this case, for some reason or other, the government is taking the position that a private company must be curbed; it must not be allowed to have a coaxial cable with outlets in Canada unless those outlets are used for defence purposes or leased to the crown company.

As a party we, of course, believe in competition. It seems to me it is so advantageous to have both of these companies with this modern service. This would be advantageous to the people of Canada and certainly would be of great benefit to my own city of Vancouver and the other western cities. It would enable them to operate on the same basis as Montreal in so far as cable service to Europe is concerned.

**Mr. Langlois (Gaspé):** They are now.

**Mr. Green:** In order to take advantage of the most modern service they are now going to be forced willy-nilly either to deal with the crown company or to send their messages through the United States.

I can see no reason why the minister should have taken the stand he has and I am quite confident there are many supporters of the Liberal party in the house today who are dubious—

**Mr. Hosking:** There is not one.

**Mr. Green:**—about a step of this kind being taken. I know that the hon. member for Wellington South is not dubious. He is