

Motion in amendment by Senator Corbin negated on the following division:

YEAS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Bonnell	Leblanc (<i>Saurel</i>)
Bosa	Lefebvre
Corbin	Lewis
Davey	MacEachen
De Bané	Marchand
Fairbairn	Molgat
Frith	Neiman
Gigantès	Olson
Graham	Petten
Haidasz	Riel
Hastings	Rizzuto
Hays	Simard
Hébert	Stewart
Kenny	Thériault—29
LeBlanc	

(*Beauséjour*)

NAYS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Atkins	Lynch-Staunton
Barootes	MacDonald
Beaudoin	(<i>Halifax</i>)
Bolduc	Macquarrie
Cochrane	Marshall
Cogger	Meighen
David	Murray
DeWare	Nurgitz
Di Nino	Oliver
Doody	Ottenheimer
Doyle	Postras
Eyton	Robertson
Grimard	Roblin
Johnson	Rossiter
Kelly	Spivak
Keon	Sylvain
Kinsella	Teed
Lavoie-Roux	Tremblay—35

ABSTENTIONS

THE HONOURABLE SENATORS

Bélisle—1

On motion of Senator Graham, debate adjourned.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO STUDY SUBJECT MATTER OF BILL C-62—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government), pursuant to notice of Tuesday, March 17, 1992, moved:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine the subject-matter of Bill C-62, An Act respecting telecommunications, in advance of the said Bill coming before the Senate or any matter relating thereto.

He said: Honourable senators, the last time we discussed pre-study was when the four finance bills came before us last fall, and the actual discussion on pre-study was in October. I think that is recent enough that I do not have to raise again the arguments in favour of pre-study. The bill that we are talking about meets the requirements and conditions for pre-study. It is highly complex and legible. It is written in a language that sometimes is difficult to understand at first sight, and it covers a topic of extraordinary importance—telecommunications.

● (1650)

The background of the bill is that it follows a Supreme Court judgment in 1989 which clarified the question of jurisdiction over telecommunications. Following that, the cabinet requested that a new bill be drafted to implement the telecommunications policy. The bill contains policy objectives that aim essentially at increasing competitiveness of Canadian telecommunications. It applies to all telecommunications carriers under federal jurisdiction and establishes federal-provincial consultation mechanisms. It refers to the CRTC and its powers. It contains references to licensing conditions and intends to promote the Canadian ownership of telecommunications infrastructures. It responds to concerns over privacy—and these are just some of the highlights of the bill itself.

Honourable senators, we feel strongly that a pre-study at this time—it had just been given first reading by the House on February 27—would be of great value to the government.

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): To the House and to the government; that is right.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Yes, of which we are members.

Senator Frith: That is what the Senate is here for—namely, to be of help to the House of Commons and to the government!

Senator Lynch-Staunton: That is exactly it. The Senate is here to improve on legislation at the earliest stage possible, especially when there is legislation of a highly complex nature such as this bill.

Senator Frith: We understand what you think the role of the Senate is.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: As a matter of fact, I think I can convince my honourable friends opposite by stating that in 1981 a distinguished member of this house—Senator Frith—said that a bill, which had been read for the first time at the time, “will not, of course, be available for study by the