

*Government Orders*

fully conversant with our needs and adapts quickly to all the changes that are taking place.

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say with respect to the amendment put forward by my colleague from Okanagan—Shuswap that we also agree and support the motion because it tries to accomplish technically speaking what I think the government is trying to accomplish by inserting these two words, input and output, in the bill. That then requires a great deal of complication in the definition section.

Let us face it. The bottom line is that we would prefer to do what the government is attempting to do with respect to the resellers in terms of exemption and through a different way rather than having the government essentially try to do it through the definition stage.

It would have been a lot more open and transparent. We could have accomplished the same thing with respect to the resellers through the exemption stage as opposed to doing it through the definition stage and then requiring all kinds of different definitions such as intelligence, exempt transmission apparatus, transmission facility, and network termination point.

The amendment put forward by the member from the NDP is logical and should be supported.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member, it is Port Moody—Coquitlam.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I know it is getting to the end of the Parliament and I know you are from Edmonton. Are you giving me the chance to just firm that riding up? Port Moody—Coquitlam.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I know it is Port Moody—Coquitlam. I was just so surprised to see the hon. member. I regret that I did not recognize the hon. member because the riding is very familiar to me.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, I should have learned my lesson. They told me in the old football world: Never tangle with Steve Paproski, the member from Edmonton, because you cannot get the ball past him.

This is an interesting amendment because it concerns inside and outside wiring. I want to put it in a bigger context and speak very briefly.

I used to be the communications critic for the NDP and now the job is being ably done by the hon. member for Okanagan—Shuswap. In his amendment he touches upon the issue of inside and outside wiring.

• (1610)

I believe there is going to be a decision by the CRTC tomorrow. The Canadian Radio—television and Telecommunications Commission is the regulator of broadcasting, some cable fees but not all cable fees, and telephone rates, which are so very important for ordinary Canadians because that money comes right out of their pockets.

There is going to be a big struggle in the future, probably beginning with tomorrow's decision. The struggle is going to be basically over who gets access to these new forms of communication. The new communications technology will be either having the satellite, they call it the death star satellite, or a box on the television with which we will have interactive television. We will be able to begin a new level of television. We will be able to buy groceries, order a pizza or whatever through our television sets.

Polls show that Canadians will pay more money for home entertainment. Goodness knows, they are paying.

Therefore I want to draw to the attention of the House that who should control the wiring is a very important issue. Should it be the present cable companies, led by the great friend of the present government, Mr. Rogers, and Unitel or should it be the phone companies which are probably the only other organizations that could compete because they have phone lines that go into houses? There are cable lines and there are phone lines. One big question will be whether there should be one line rather than two lines.

We are a country that so far has had one of the most advanced telecommunications systems in the world. We were, and I hope still are in many ways, the world leader in communications. We have to keep that. We especially have to keep all our people plugged into and connected to this technology.