

Private Bills

Mr. Basford: In the position he has just announced that his party is taking, I am wondering whether he has had any agreement with Premier Bennett to take this viewpoint?

The Chairman: The question asked by the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Basford) is also beyond the limits of the bill and out of order.

Mr. Caouette: You asked whether Bennett let me do this or—

The Chairman: Order please.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I was not out of order, but a Liberal member was. As usual, all Liberal members, as well as the Minister without Portfolio, are out of order.

Mr. Chairman, Bill No. S-27 says:

Whereas The Bell Telephone Company of Canada has by its petition prayed that it be enacted as hereinafter set forth and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petition: Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

I shall now read clause 1:

The business of the company shall be managed by a board of not less than five nor more than twenty directors, as may from time to time be determined by resolution of the shareholders, and each such director shall be the proprietor of at least ten shares in the capital stock of the company, or such other additional number of shares, not exceeding forty additional shares, as the shareholders shall by any resolution passed at any annual general meeting, or special general meeting, from time to time determine; and the said board of directors shall be elected and hold office as hereinafter provided; and a majority of the said directors shall be residents of Canada."

Mr. Chairman, this concerns the operations of the organization of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, within the boundaries of Canada.

It is all very fine to read in the bill that a majority of directors shall be residents of Canada, but nobody is or will be surprised to hear that the Bell Telephone Company of Canada is a subsidiary of the Bell Telephone Company of America, a branch of that American company. Even if we have a Canadian majority of directors, officers and shareholders in the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, this corporation is, nevertheless, under the control of a parent company, a master company, in the United States. This means that our telephone system, in Canada, is still under American control.

Mr. Choquette: Hear, hear.

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Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Lotbinière says: Hear, hear.

Why try to mislead the public with bills like this one? Why do the hon. senators—most of them former politicians accept to submit to us a bill like Bill No. S-27, to make people believe that the Bell Telephone Company of Canada will, henceforth, be controlled by a Canadian majority, which is untrue, because the Americans still control that company?

Mr. Chairman, I want to point out that I have absolutely nothing against Americans. But let us stop making believe that by moving bills as insipid as the one now before us, we shall take over control of our economy, of our administration and of our assets, etc. It is absolutely false to pretend that the Bell Telephone Company of Canada will be controlled by a Canadian majority, even if it had 20 directors, or even 1,000 of them.

Mr. Chairman, I will now conclude my comments on Bill No. S-27 because other hon. members intend to say a few words about it.

However, I wish to say that bills coming from the Senate do not interest us any more and that we will do our utmost to prevent their passing because we do not want to be told what to do by people who are not elected by the people.

Mr. Choquette: Will the hon. member for Villeneuve allow a question?

Mr. Caouette: Yes.

Mr. Choquette: The hon. member seems to be against companies controlled by Americans. As a good car salesman, could he tell me who controls the Chrysler Corporation of Canada?

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, it affords me great pleasure to answer the question of my hon. friend from Lotbinière. The Chrysler Corporation of Canada is controlled by the Americans, like Ford and General Motors. He probably owns a General Motors car.

The Chairman: I do not think the question of the hon. member for Lotbinière is in order.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, may I point out just the same, on a question of privilege, that I have been advocating for over ten years the establishment of a wholly Canadian automobile factory? If we do not have such a truly Canadian company at the present time, the Social Crediters are not to blame, but rather the Liberals and the Conservatives