

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### INTEGRATED CIRCUIT TOPOGRAPHY ACT

#### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Blais that Bill C-57, an act to provide for the protection of integrated circuit topographies and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate on behalf of my caucus in what is a very important debate.

We have been chuckling to ourselves this morning in the House about the technical nature of the integrated circuits and what have you, but a remark of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs during his presentation this morning made me think. In fact I asked him whether it was a play on words when he talked about crystal clear.

The reality is that we have gone far in this world and in this country in particular in the development and utilization of technology. We have gone from crystal radio sets, which I remember putting together as a young child, with vacuum tubes and transistors, and then into very rudimentary integrated circuits. Now we are into circuits which are so complex and so powerful that they need the protection of law. With the amount of time, energy and resources put into the development of a circuit, we need the ability in law to protect the person or the company that did it from theft of the idea.

I say that my caucus supports this particular legislation, Bill C-57. I am very pleased that this bill is before the House to extend intellectual property rights to a scientific community which has been waiting for this bill for many years. We had anticipated that these measures would have been included in the much anticipated phase two of copyright reform. Instead of doing it piecemeal on a specific area, we should have had phase 2 brought forward so that we can deal in a proper way with copyright.

It has been five years since the government promised to reform copyright laws. As far as we know, it has only gone a quarter of the way. Even now, there are still some

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problems that have been created. What the government brought in was a package of the least controversial aspects of what is a very difficult issue. I make no bones about that.

We are concerned that the government seems incapable of managing a solution to the very real problems of copyright reform. It seems content to leave Canadian schools, artists, users and creators in a legislative no-man's land, or should I say, no-person's land, while it dithers over copyright.

I will not take very long, but there are some things I want to put on the record. This act seeks to provide intellectual property protection to the topography of integrated circuits or ICs, as they are known in the industry, known commonly as chips or semi-conductor chips.

I was interested to find that there are 25 Canadian companies that design and/or produce chips. In 1989, Canadian production of IC products was estimated at \$300 million.

The Canadian industry is involved primarily in the design and fabrication of customized and semi-customized chips. It is especially so in producing IC products for the telecommunications industry, one in which Canada is a world leader. It is an industry that has a chance to grow in the regions of this country, and no longer has to be located in the golden horseshoe of southern Ontario or the industrial areas of Quebec. It can be located in the Atikokans of the world, or the Sioux Lookouts, and communicate directly by satellite to provide services.

This industry is involved in the production of leading edge technology and high value-added products. Canadian firms producing semi-conductors need to be protected. At least 15 nations, including the United States, Japan, various European nations and the Nordic countries have provided specific intellectual property protection for semi-conductor chips.

We will give our full support to this bill but we want to take this opportunity to remind the government that it has not helped other leading edge Canadian firms such as Connaught and Lumonics.

The electronic circuits of an IC product are contained in a three-dimensional hill and valley configuration known as a topography.