

*Communications Satellites*

areas. I do not know whether we will pay for the launching or how we will get it into orbit, but we probably have figured that out. However, we were to build it. It was to be ours and we would have a commodity in which we could sell space communications to other people.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** A good, Conservative policy.

**Mr. Peters:** As my friend says, "A good, Conservative policy". I think it was, but the new Conservative policy amuses me because it is one the Liberals had for a few months. The Liberals gave up their position of continentalism and my friends in the Conservative party have taken it up. I do not know where this leaves them. These papers might indicate where it leaves them.

I have not supported that proposition in either the old or the new position, but believe Canadians should do all they can and should be as expert as possible in fields where it is feasible. I wholeheartedly accept the proposition that these papers should be made public and ask that the government, in the interest of the Canadian public, not provide this information through leaks but in a formal manner so that business can be conducted in an orderly fashion.

[Translation]

**Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Montreal-Bourassa):** Mr. Speaker, I have listened closely to the comment made by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie) who, apparently, wanted to emphasize three main points.

He stated first of all that there was a lack of information and he attempted to give reasons for this. He then quoted the white paper.

Then, to show that Canada's share was not very great, he referred to certain speeches.

His colleague from Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) proceeded in a totally different manner, and he proved that there was in fact a telecommunications system in Canada by going over past events.

I share the view of the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) that the hon. member was then showing that there had in fact been participation and that we did participate in the telecommunications system. He spoke of the Alouette and the trip he made to Vandenberg last April when another satellite was launched.

If I may answer the question asked by these two members concerning the lack of information, I would like to make some remarks. On the contrary, it seems to me that we have the necessary information in order to ascertain just how far we have gone in the field of telecommunications.

• (5:50 p.m.)

There is a point on which I would like to insist before commenting on another subject. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris seemed to suggest that we reversed the engine, that we had changed the government policy. On the contrary, I think he has demonstrated himself that not only did our policy remain unchanged but also that we still apply what has been decided previously.

At this point, I would like to review for the information of hon. members certain striking facts which certainly concern the national system of telecommunication by

satellites, including Telesat, which was established by the government.

On July 31, 1970, after it received permission to do so from the government of Canada, Telesat opened negotiations with the Hughes Aircraft Company, which led to a contract under which Hughes Aircraft was to build the spacecraft needed by Telesat for its national satellite communications system.

On September 30, a month later, after the Minister of Communications had approved the Canadian contents of the project, as required under the Telesat Canada Act, representatives of Telesat Canada and the Hughes Aircraft Company signed the contract, which amounted to some \$31 million.

The contract stated that Hughes Aircraft would provide three spacecraft for implementation of the space part of the Telesat system. Before this contract was signed, Hughes Aircraft had signed contracts with its two main sub-contractors—the Northern Electric Company in Montreal, and the Spar Aerospace Products Ltd. in Toronto. Northern Electric is to provide the whole electronic system—particularly all the communication devices of the spacecraft—which would represent not a 20 per cent content, as mentioned by the hon. member for Hillsborough, but rather a 100 per cent content in that case. Spar Aerospace Products Ltd. will supply the structure of the spacecraft and the technical support staff. The suggestions of the hon. member for Hillsborough might perhaps be vindicated by saying that owing to the contribution of two Canadian sub-contractors, more than 20 per cent of the elements of the spacecraft will be Canada-made.

Contracts have also been signed by Hughes Aircraft, Spar Aerospace and Northern Electric whereby the two Canadian companies would provide the electronic system and structure for about fifteen other similar spacecraft which Hughes Aircraft hopes to sell on the world market.

It is interesting to note that the structure of the first spacecraft which will be launched has already been delivered to Hughes Aircraft by Spar Aerospace Products Ltd. on August 23, long before the deadline and that works on the electronic equipment are progressing at the new Northern Electric plant at Lucerne in Quebec.

The contract between Telesat and Hughes Aircraft calls for delivery of the first spacecraft in October 1972; the second and third are to be delivered at four months' intervals. The contract of some \$31 million calls for performance pay to Hughes Aircraft during the whole useful life of the satellites and penalties payable by Hughes Aircraft for delays in delivery. In other words, Hughes Aircraft will not receive the total amount stipulated in the contract as long as the satellite's performance has not been satisfactory for its whole useful life. The company will also be penalized if it does not deliver the spacecraft as scheduled.

Telesat will be one, if not the first national satellite telecommunications system in the world to use satellites on synchronous orbit.

Each satellite will have 12 channels of which ten will be available for commercial use, and the other two reserved. Each channel will be able to carry a signal for colour television, or the equivalent in message traffic, that is a maximum of 960 unilateral telephone lines.