

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

brought to the attention of the provincial authorities and the University of Manitoba, and that the university had already started an investigation into the possibility of adverse effects of microwave radiation.

Since an investigation was already under way by the University of Manitoba, it was decided that we should assist and support them, rather than undertake a separate study. We are assisting in obtaining information from other agencies studying the effects of microwave information on humans, animals and vegetation; and of contributing financial assistance toward the research studies being made by the universities on the effect of low levels of radiant energy on poultry. The dean of faculty of agriculture of the University of Manitoba has kept us fully informed. There is no evidence to date to support the hypothesis that a microwave tower is responsible for unthriftiness or losses of agricultural plants or animals. The university, with our support, is continuing its investigation.

So far as the other allegation made by the hon. member is concerned, that we are on the frontiers of new information, and so on, I think there again we have to say no one can guarantee that some additional scientific discovery will not turn up some time that will give a positive diagnosis of the problem that this man is having with his poultry. Certainly we were doing everything within reason to attempt an analysis of the problem and, within the bounds of reasonableness, I think the government has done everything that could be expected of it. The same remark applies to the university, the provincial government and the federal government.

COMMUNICATIONS—CO-OPERATION WITH
FRANCE IN SPACE AND SATELLITE
RESEARCH

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is an important one. I know we live in an electronic age, but I wanted to talk about communications. I have read, if not understood, Marshall McLuhan, and I realize the importance of the whole communications field. I thought perhaps the minister designate of communications might be here tonight. I realize the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has to attend a committee meeting, which I just left, so I do not know who will be responding to this question.

I wonder whether there have not been important developments taking place with which this house is unfamiliar, and of which the

country is unaware. It is for this reason I have been trying to ask questions on this subject matter for the last week or two. I have asked for a statement from the minister designate for communications, but so far on the records of this house we find little about telecommunications. We do however find considerable in the media. The *Montreal Star* for October 5 has an article by Robert Reford, under the date line of the United Nations, which reads:

External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp proposed yesterday that Canada and France co-operate in the field of space research and technology, including satellite communications.

Sharp made the proposal when he met here with French foreign minister Michel Debré. The two men spent nearly an hour together in a secluded corner of one of the delegates lounges after they had listened to the acting foreign minister of Czechoslovakia address the General Assembly.

Debré took note of the proposal and said it would be considered by his government.

They talked about three things: the implications of the Czech crisis, the Middle East and scientific co-operation in space research. The first two were general exchanges of views. The third was a specific Canadian proposal.

The article then continued:

The space proposal was the unusual topic of their conversation. Obviously it represented the federal government's reaction to talk of a communications satellite to be operated jointly by France and Quebec.

Sharp pointed out to Debré that there are many areas where Canada and France could help each. They include technical facilities, scientific research and technology.

I should like one of the ministers to tell us at least as much as was presumably told to Robert Reford.

Another interesting reference to the Paris press under the byline of Bernard Kaplan can be found in the *Ottawa Citizen* of October 8, 1968. Let me emphasize here that another minister has the responsibility for this, but I introduce it now as an indication of the increasing importance of this subject matter and the interest surrounding it. This article says:

Thwarted on all these fronts, de Gaulle seems to be concentrating his thinned-out legions on pushing French culture on a worldwide scale.

I realize that this is not a governmental operation. The article continues:

The first shot was sounded at the initial conference here of the international association of French speaking parliamentarians.