

May I add a remark on the launching of satellites. That is no longer a new art for us and it has also become a matter of routine in the world.

I understand now that if a satellite missed its launching into space, the Government and the company would be protected by insurances against such a disaster. They would not have to pay the cost of the replacement satellite and its launching. As you noticed in the balance sheet, insurance will cost \$3 million, and it is still included in the estimates.

[English]

Honourable senators, this is an important bill for the country. According to the economic analysts, this communications satellite system will bring a fair return to investors making the investment. It is a prediction; nothing else.

It is claimed by the minister that the satellite system is expected to solve two of the country's most pressing problems: making improved bilingual broadcasting available in all parts of Canada, and providing an adequate and dependable communications network for the far North, thus filling a need in Canadian communications and occupying an important vacuum in universal communications.

On June 16 Senator Mike Gravel of the United States Senate made a speech calling the attention of that house to the praiseworthy action of the Government of Canada. He spoke this way:

I can't praise Canadian action enough. This action represents the courage and ability to go out and do what so many countries have been talking about doing. The Canadian Government is actually going to provide telephone and television services not only to their urban areas but to the most remote and far-reaching boundaries. Yes, they will provide this service now through the use of the new satellite technology rather than waiting a score of years to provide this service through ordinary terrestrial means. The Canadians are to be complimented even beyond this for they hope to provide this new and advanced service at a lesser cost than is presently being charged in more urban areas.

Later in his speech he mentioned that the foresight of Prime Minister Trudeau and his communication minister, Eric W. Kierans, would bring about in a few short years the most modern audiovisual and cultural aids to serve all Canadian cities between three

oceans, the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic.

Honourable senators, I would suggest that Bill C-184 be sent to the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications after other speakers have been heard.

Hon. J. Campbell Haig: Honourable senators, before I begin my talk this afternoon, I should like to welcome back to this chamber the honourable Senator Grattan O'Leary.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, I support the adoption of this bill. I was very sorry I did not hear the full introduction given to it by Senator Desruisseaux, but I want to say that he was very helpful to me when I was asked to participate in the presentation of this bill. Now, there was a full discussion of this bill in the House of Commons and various amendments were made to it, and it had very good hearings in committee.

Before I get into the main body of my remarks, I recommend that members of this house study the White Paper of the Honourable C. M. Drury, dated March 28, 1968.

This bill was introduced by the Minister of Communications in the other place on March 24, 1969. It provides for a corporation to be set up to be known as Telesat Canada. The honourable Senator Desruisseaux has explained in a very full and complete manner the set-up of that corporation's financing and its method of operation.

For those non-scientific minds in this chamber, of which I presume there are quite a few, I should like to discuss the composition of this system. The fully developed Canadian satellite system will be composed of several satellites, in a synchronous orbit 22,300 miles above the equator at a longitude approximating that of Winnipeg, and three basic forms of ground stations. Large ground stations with parabolic antennas having a diameter of about 60 feet will be used for heavy route transmission and reception of television and telephony and located at major population centres. Smaller light route stations will be used for small telephony users in remote locations and equipped for the additional facility of television reception. The largest group of stations would be for TV reception only, serving areas not served by a terrestrial TV link, as well as areas presently covered by the national TV networks—both the CBC network and the CTV network.